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Kerber et al.

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(54) **FINFET DEVICE HAVING A MERGE SOURCE DRAIN REGION UNDER CONTACT AREAS AND UNMERGED FINS BETWEEN CONTACT AREAS, AND A METHOD OF MANUFACTURING SAME**

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
CPC H01L 27/1203; H01L 27/12; H01L 21/84; H01L 21/775; H01L 29/66772
USPC 257/347; 438/283
See application file for complete search history.

(71) Applicant: **GLOBALFOUNDRIES INC.**, Grand Cayman (KY)

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(72) Inventors: **Pranita Kerber**, Mount Kisco, NY (US); **Qiqing C. Ouyang**, Yorktown Heights, NY (US); **Alexander Reznicek**, Troy, NY (US)

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(73) Assignee: **GLOBALFOUNDRIES INC.**, Grand Cayman (KY)

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Primary Examiner — Quoc Hoang

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(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm* — Scully Scott Murphy and Presser; Frank Digiglio

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A method for manufacturing a fin field-effect transistor (FinFET) device, comprises forming a plurality of fins on a substrate, forming a plurality of gate regions on portions of the fins, wherein the gate regions are spaced apart from each other, forming spacers on each respective gate region, epitaxially growing a first epitaxy region on each of the fins, stopping growth of the first epitaxy regions prior to merging of the first epitaxy regions between adjacent fins, forming a dielectric layer on the substrate including the fins and first epitaxy regions, removing the dielectric layer and first epitaxy regions from the fins at one or more portions between adjacent gate regions to form one or more contact area trenches, and epitaxially growing a second epitaxy region on each of the fins in the one or more contact area trenches, wherein the second epitaxy regions on adjacent fins merge with each other.

Related U.S. Application Data

(62) Division of application No. 14/022,945, filed on Sep. 10, 2013, now Pat. No. 8,993,406.

(51) **Int. Cl.**

H01L 27/01 (2006.01)

H01L 29/78 (2006.01)

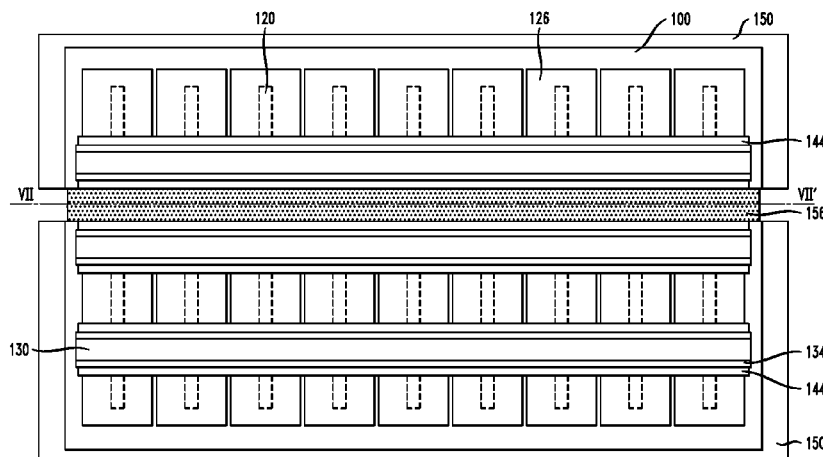
H01L 29/66 (2006.01)

H01L 29/08 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**

CPC **H01L 29/785** (2013.01); **H01L 29/0847** (2013.01); **H01L 29/66795** (2013.01); **H01L 29/7853** (2013.01)

18 Claims, 25 Drawing Sheets



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FIG. 1A

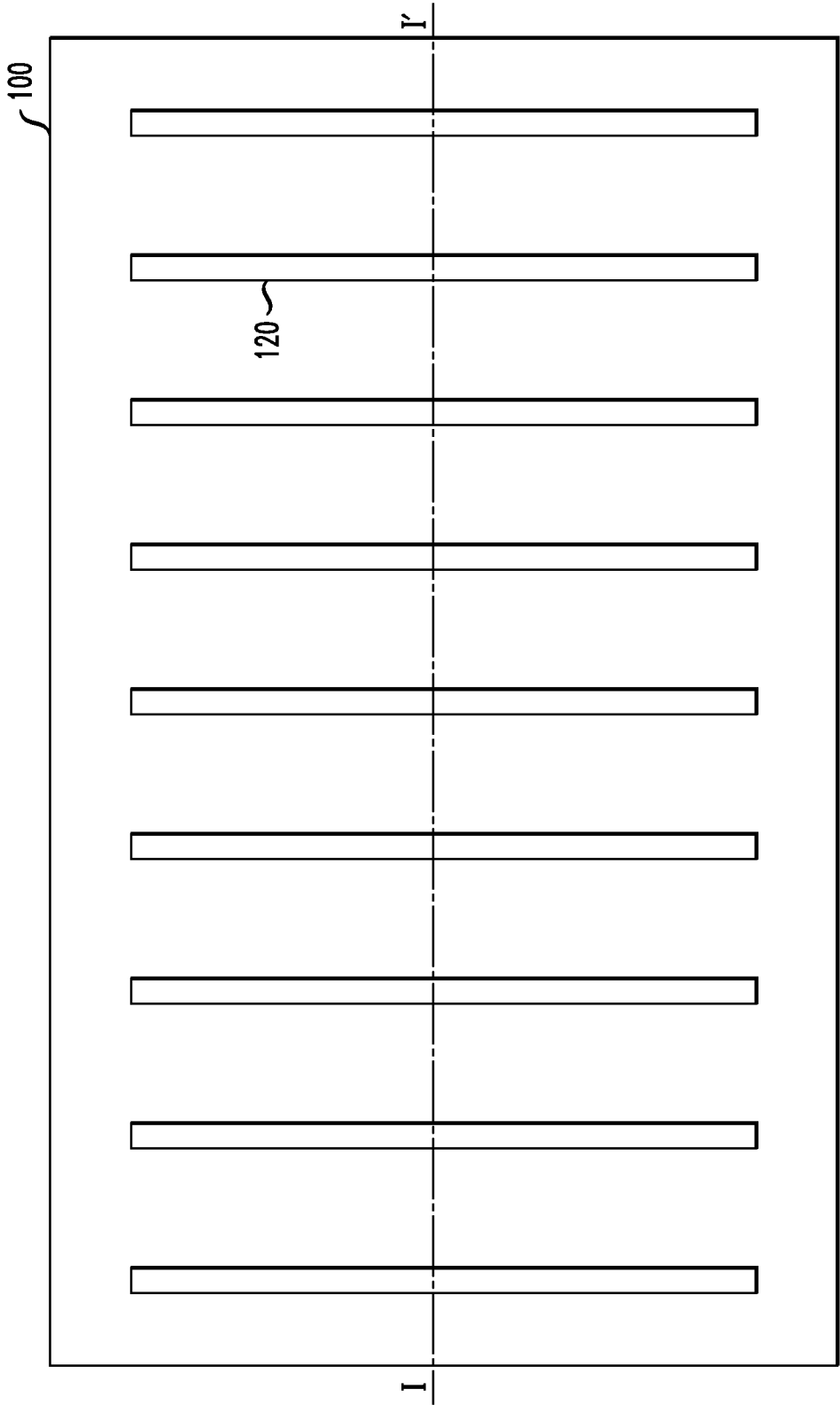


FIG. 1B

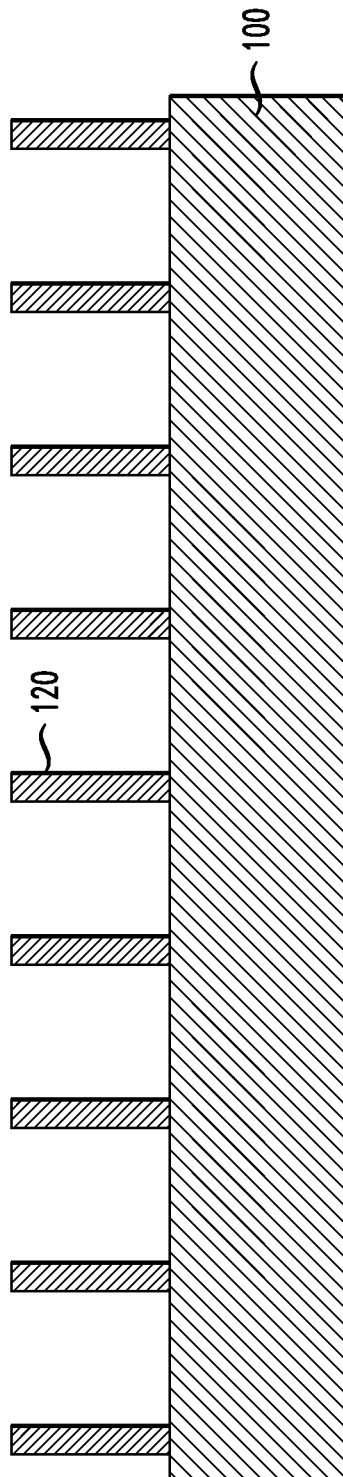


FIG. 2

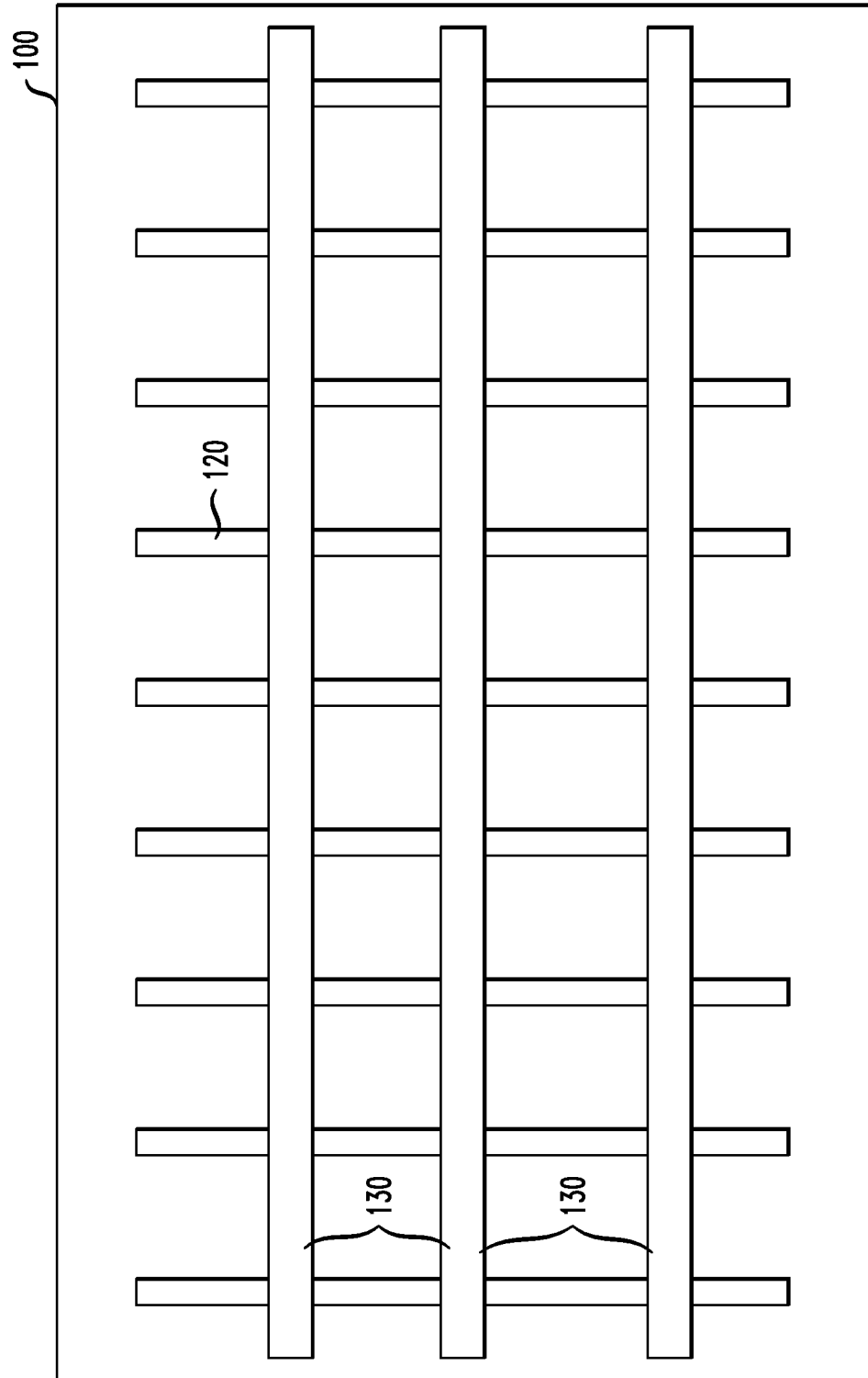


FIG. 3A

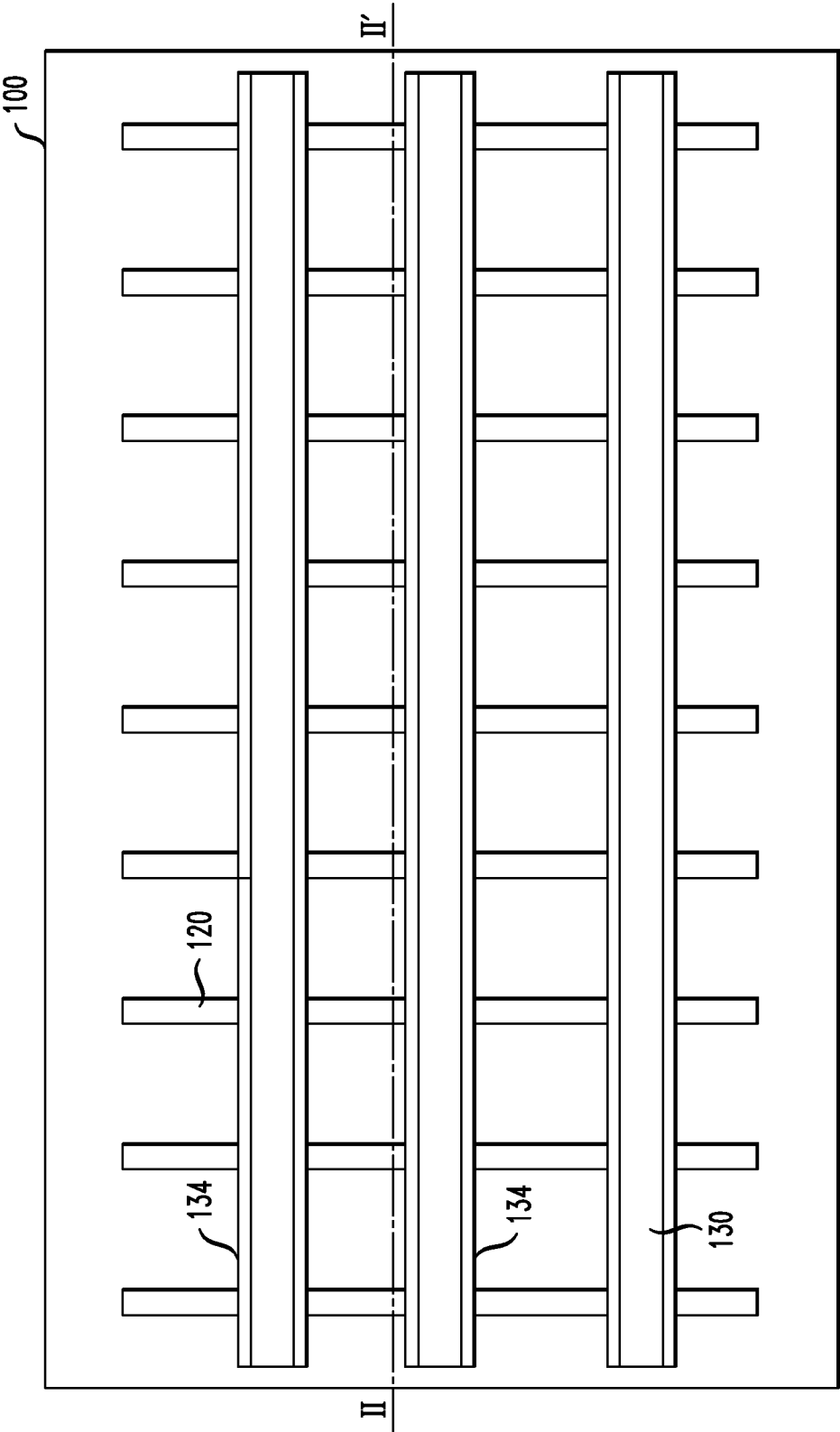


FIG. 3B

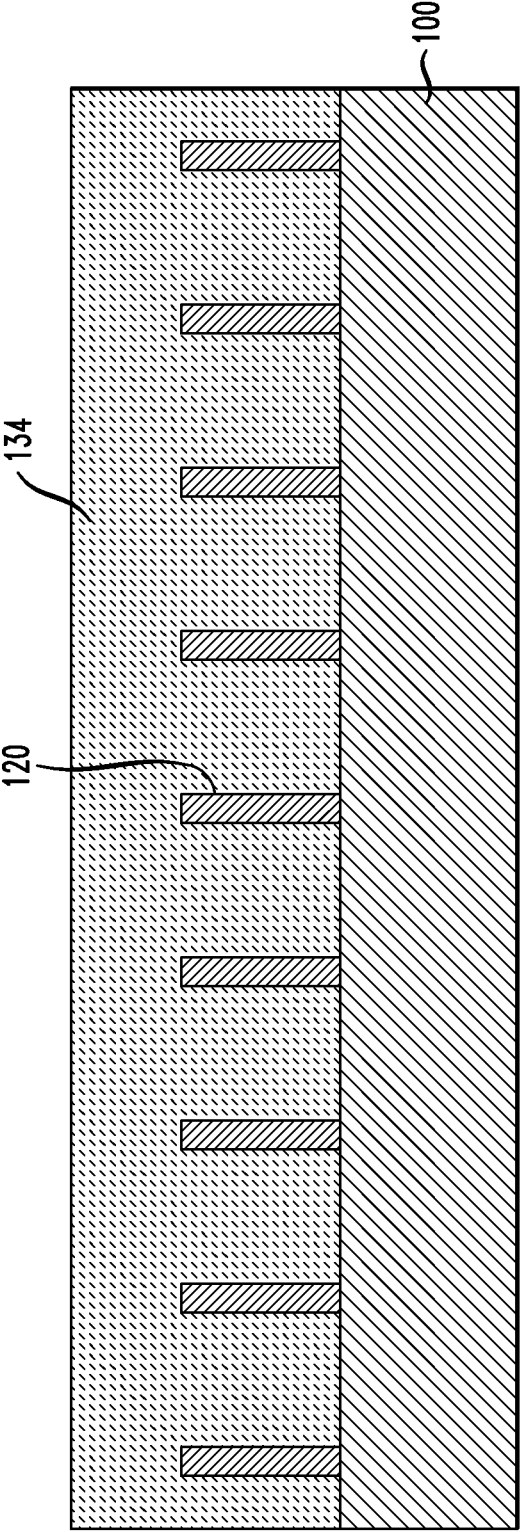


FIG. 4A

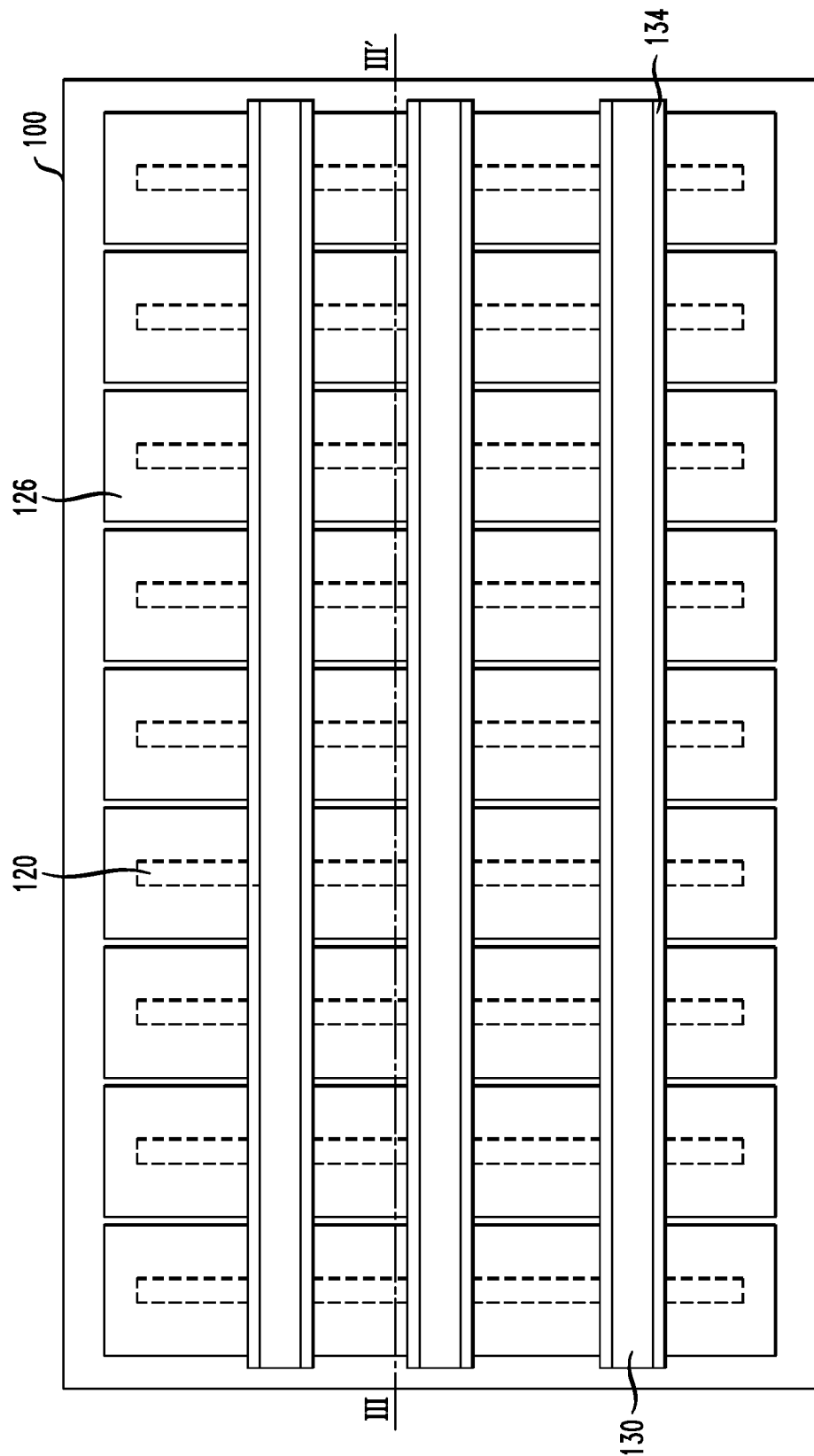


FIG. 4B

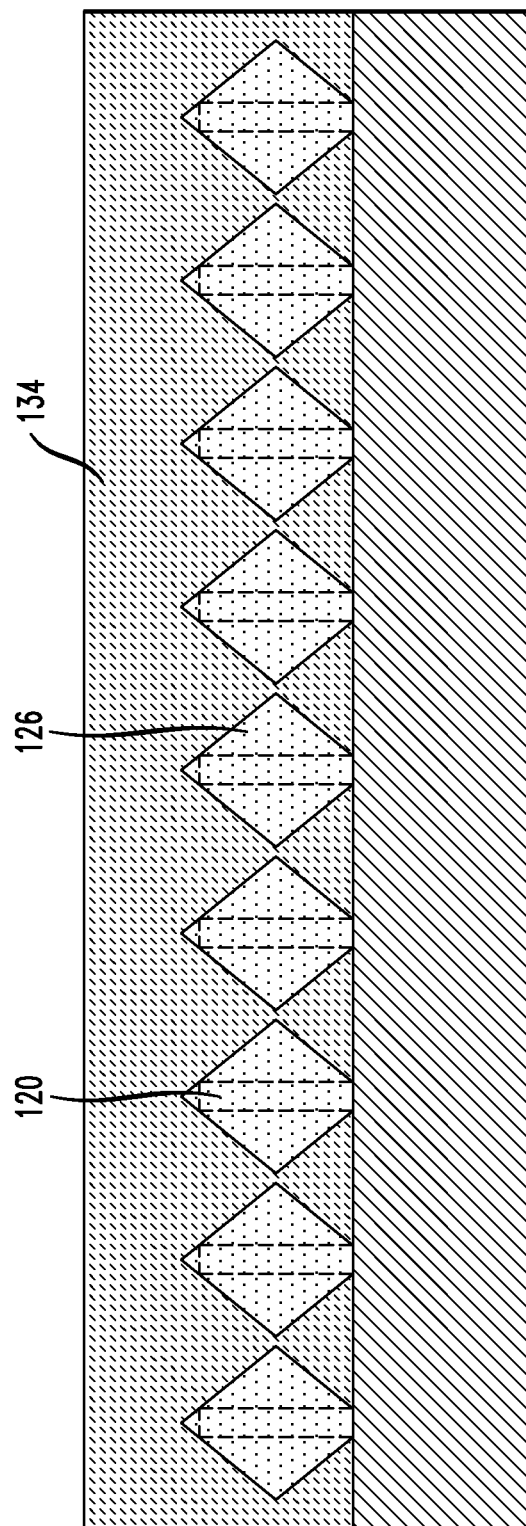


FIG. 5A

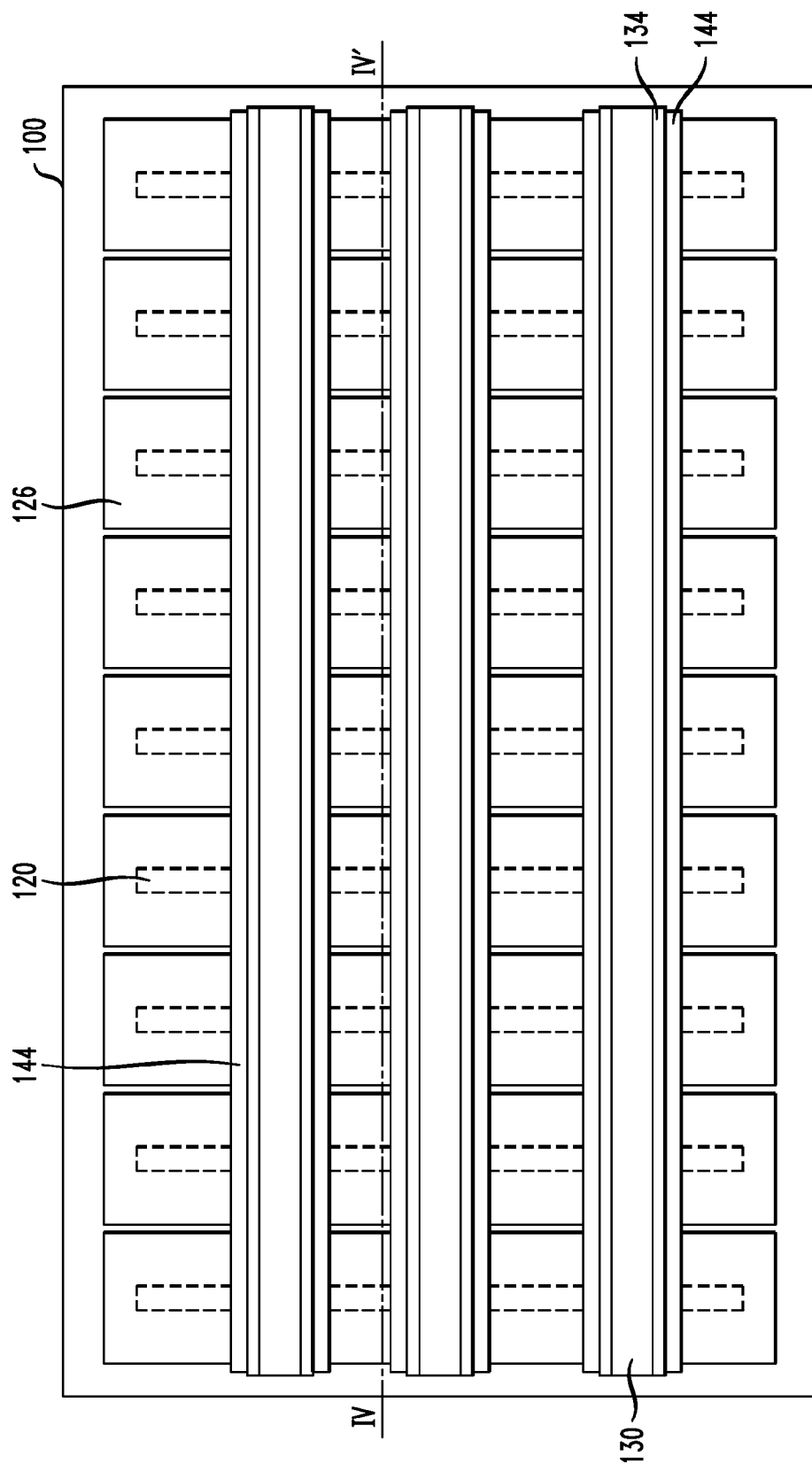


FIG. 5B

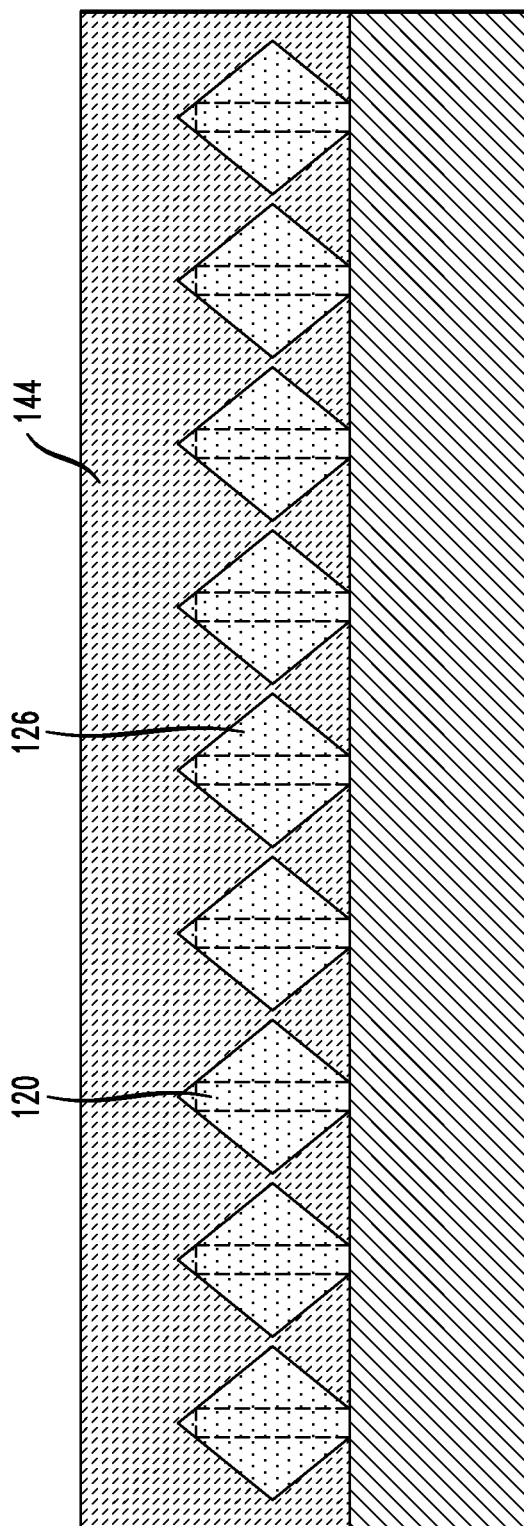


FIG. 6A

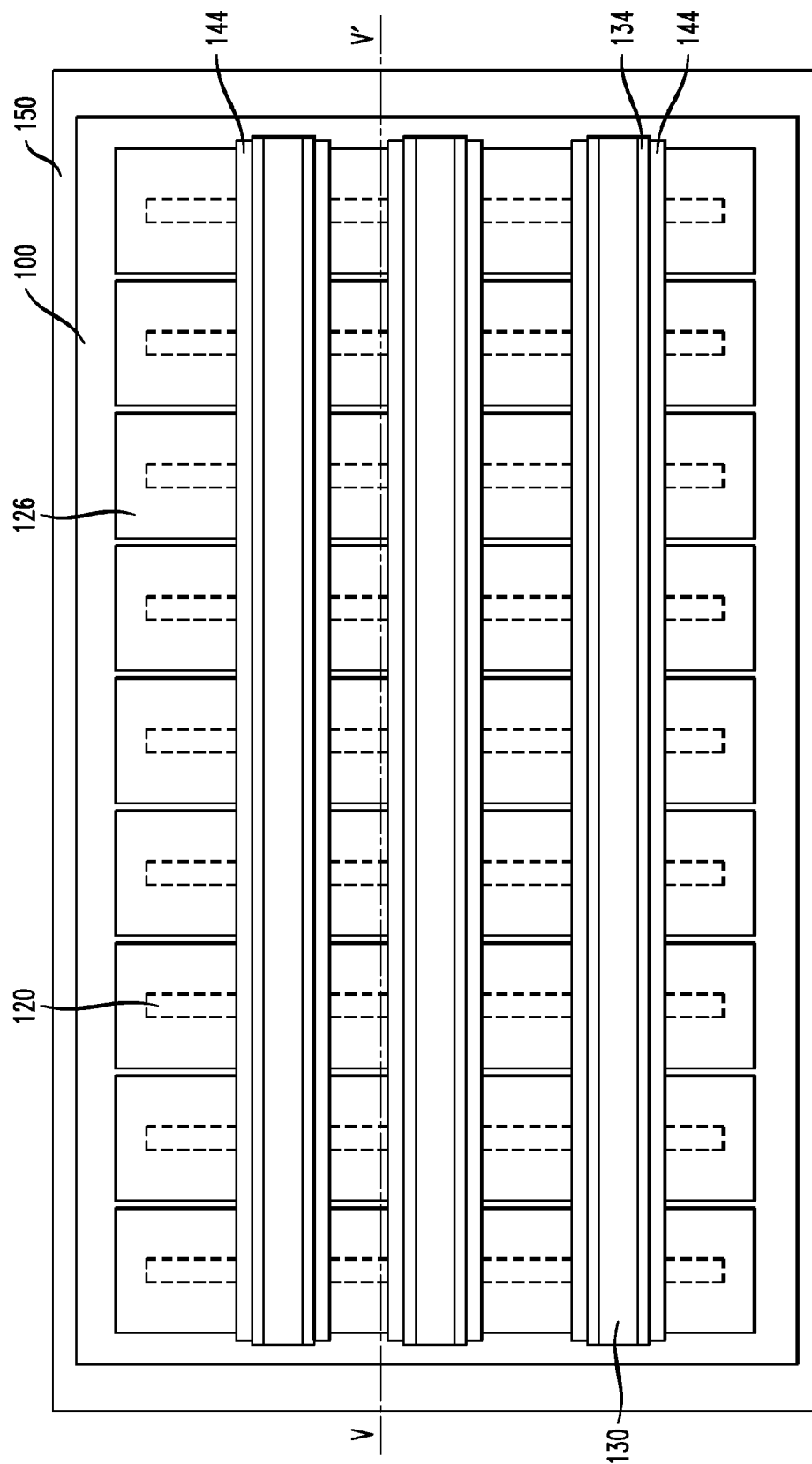


FIG. 6B

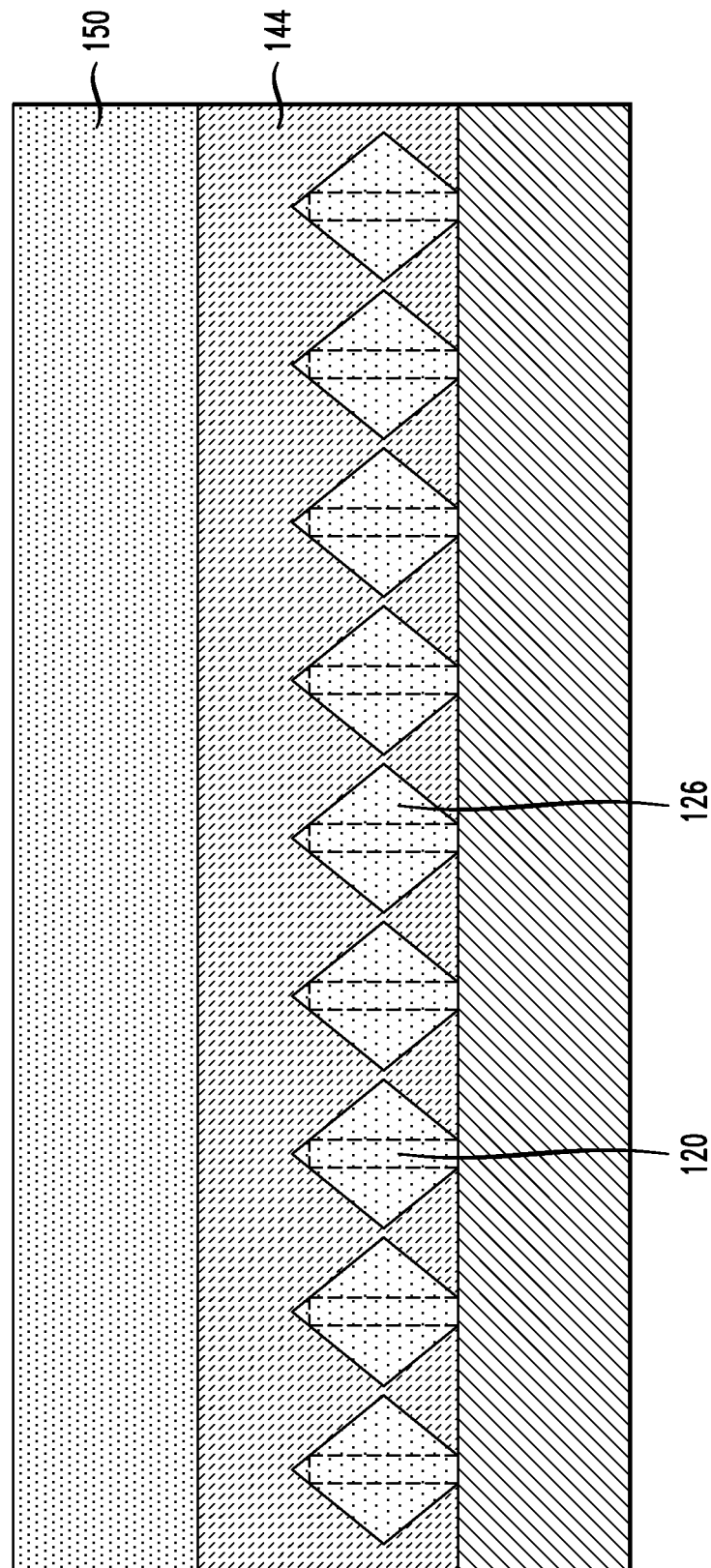


FIG. 7A

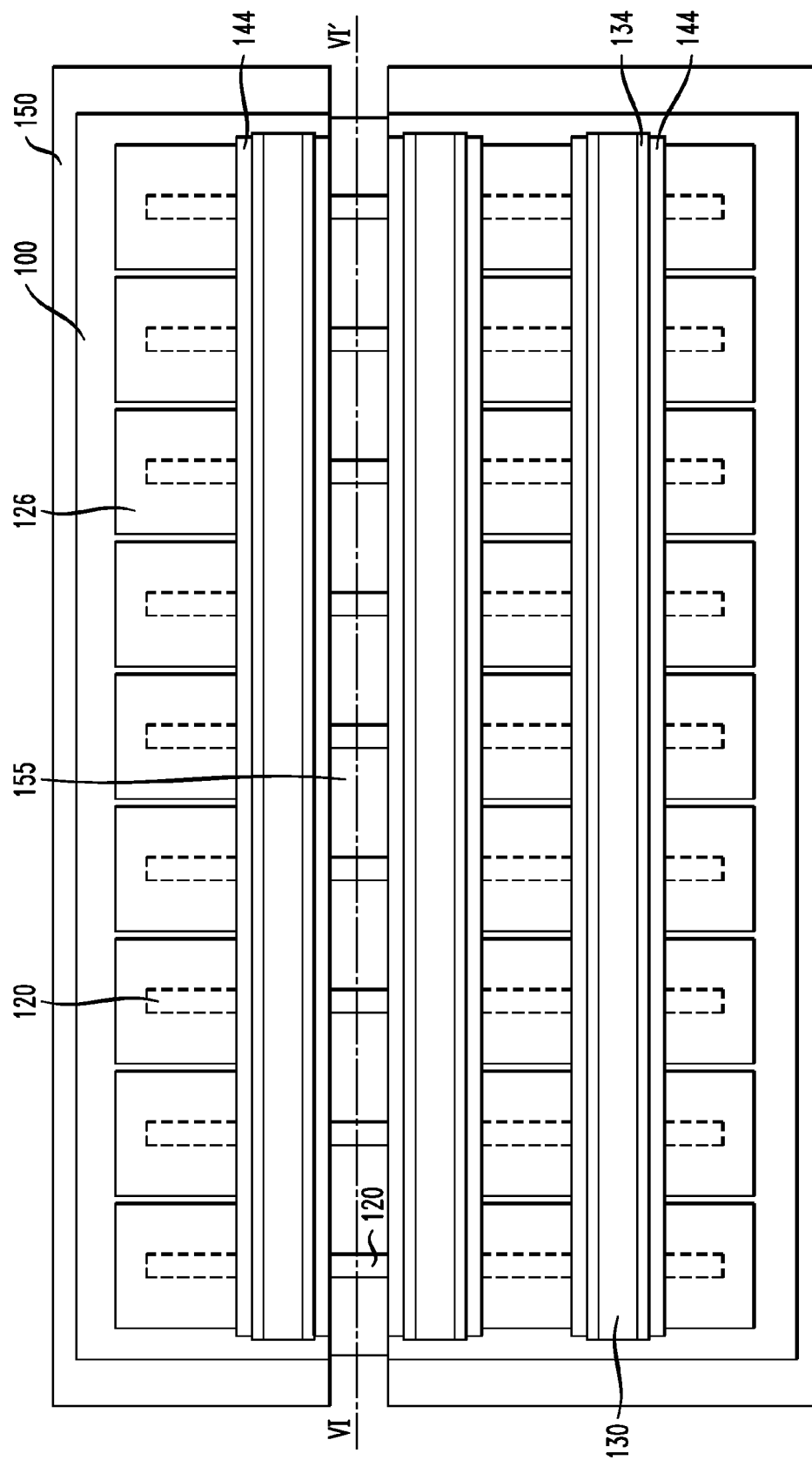


FIG. 7B

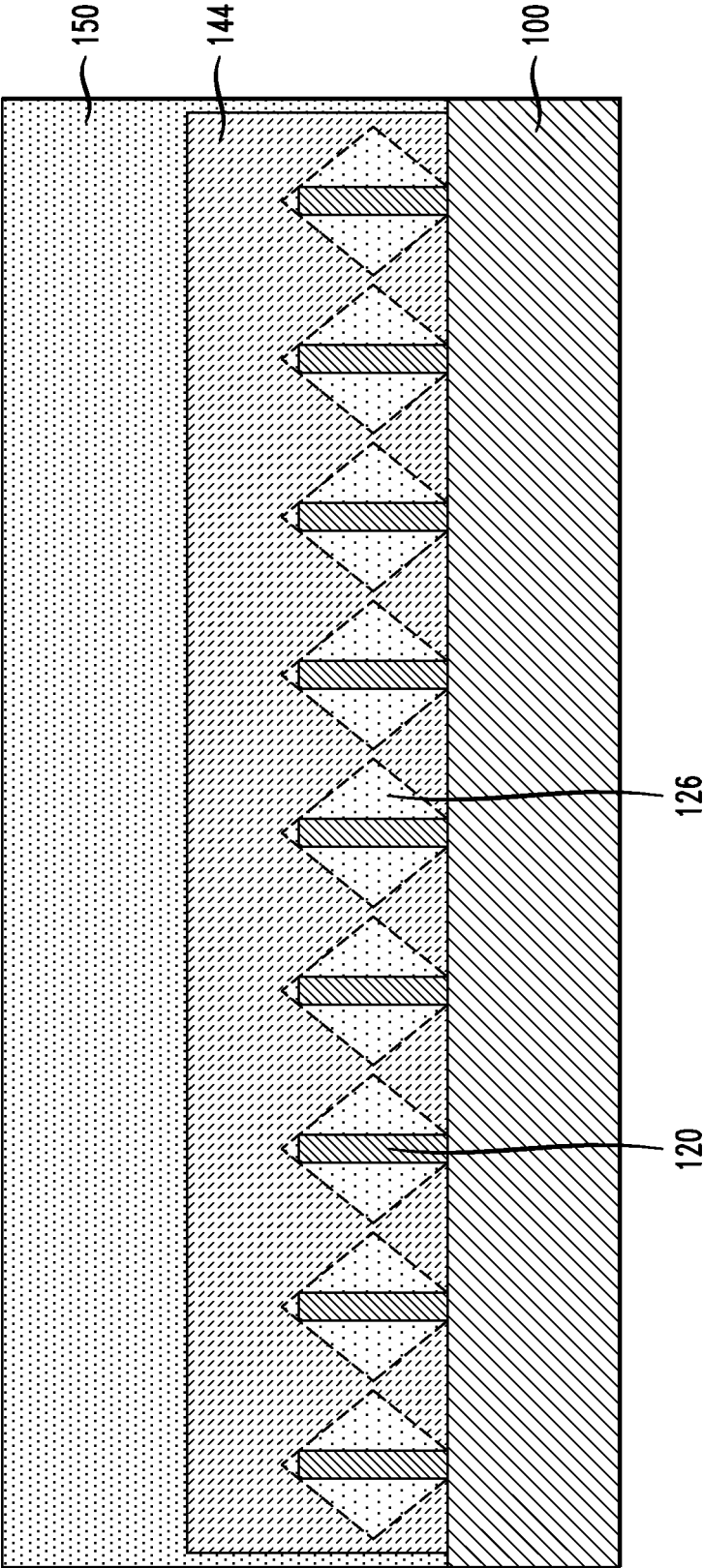


FIG. 8A

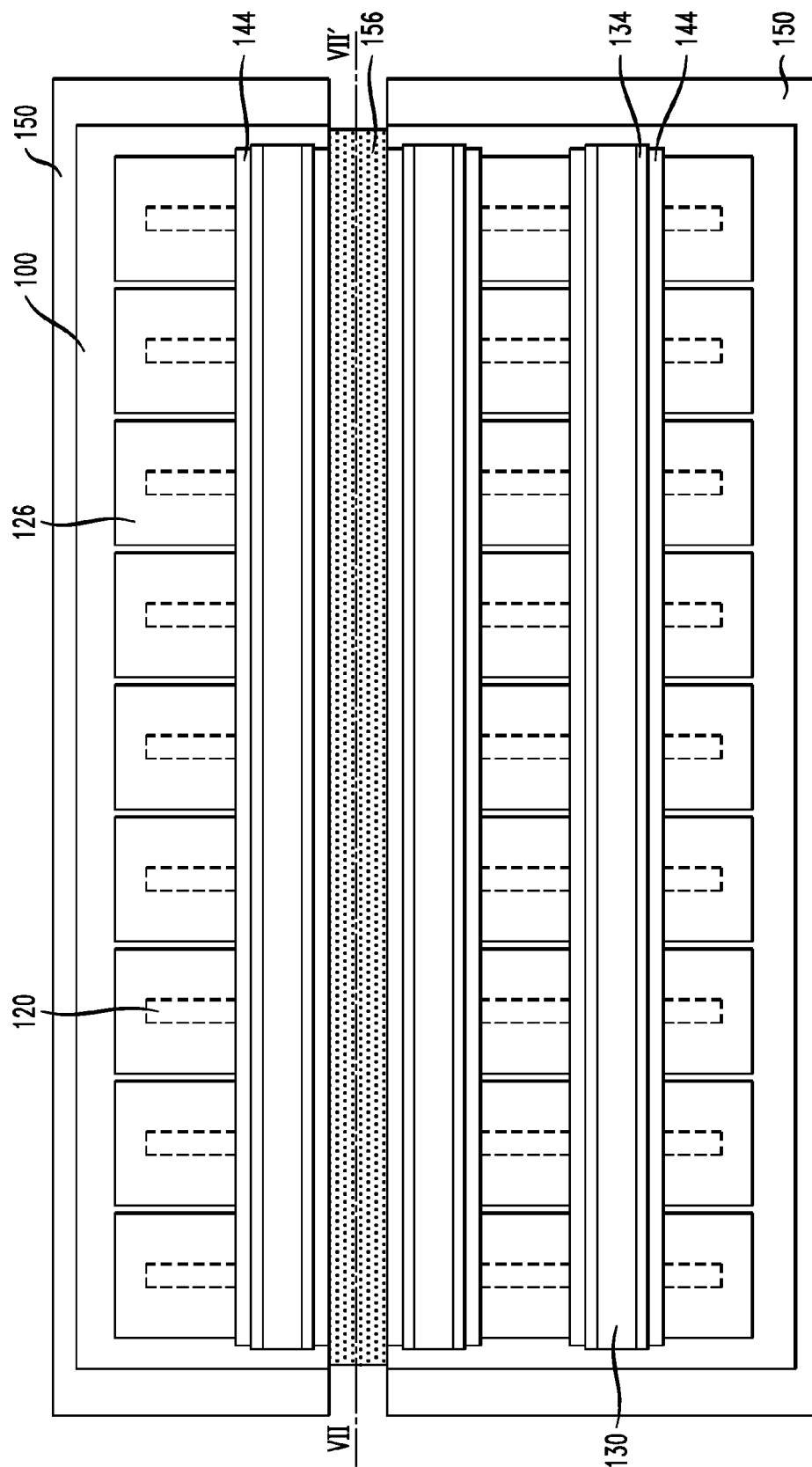


FIG. 8B

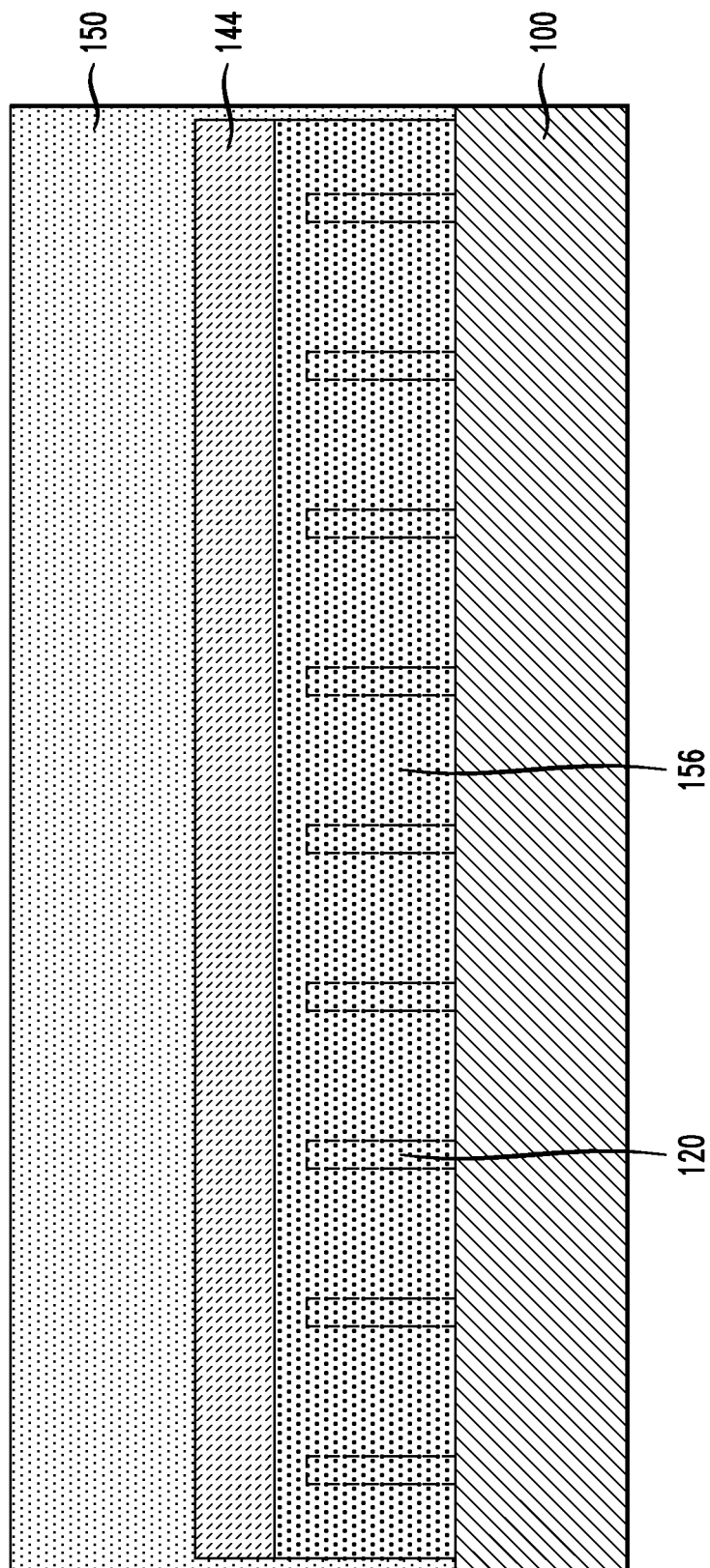


FIG. 9A

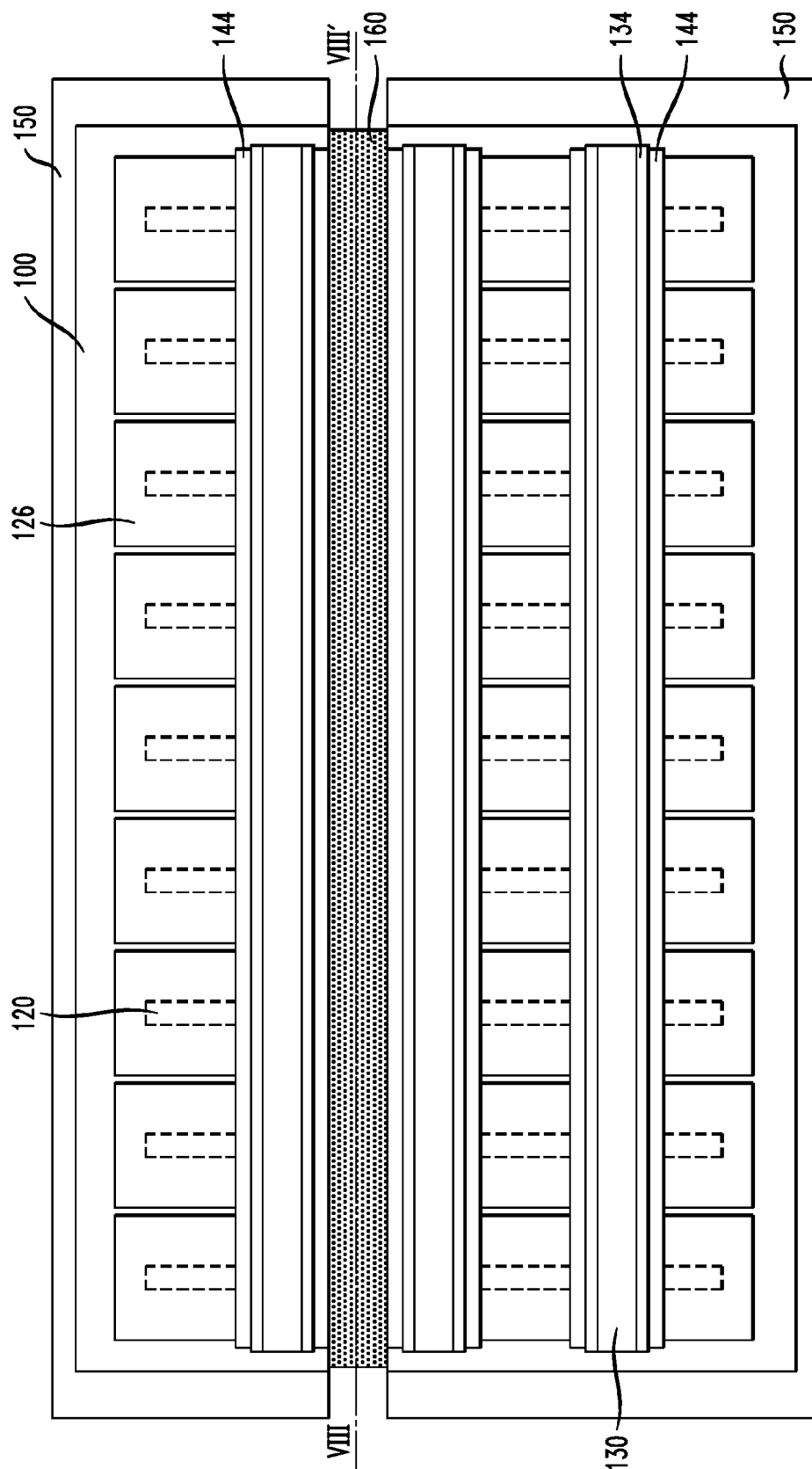


FIG. 9B

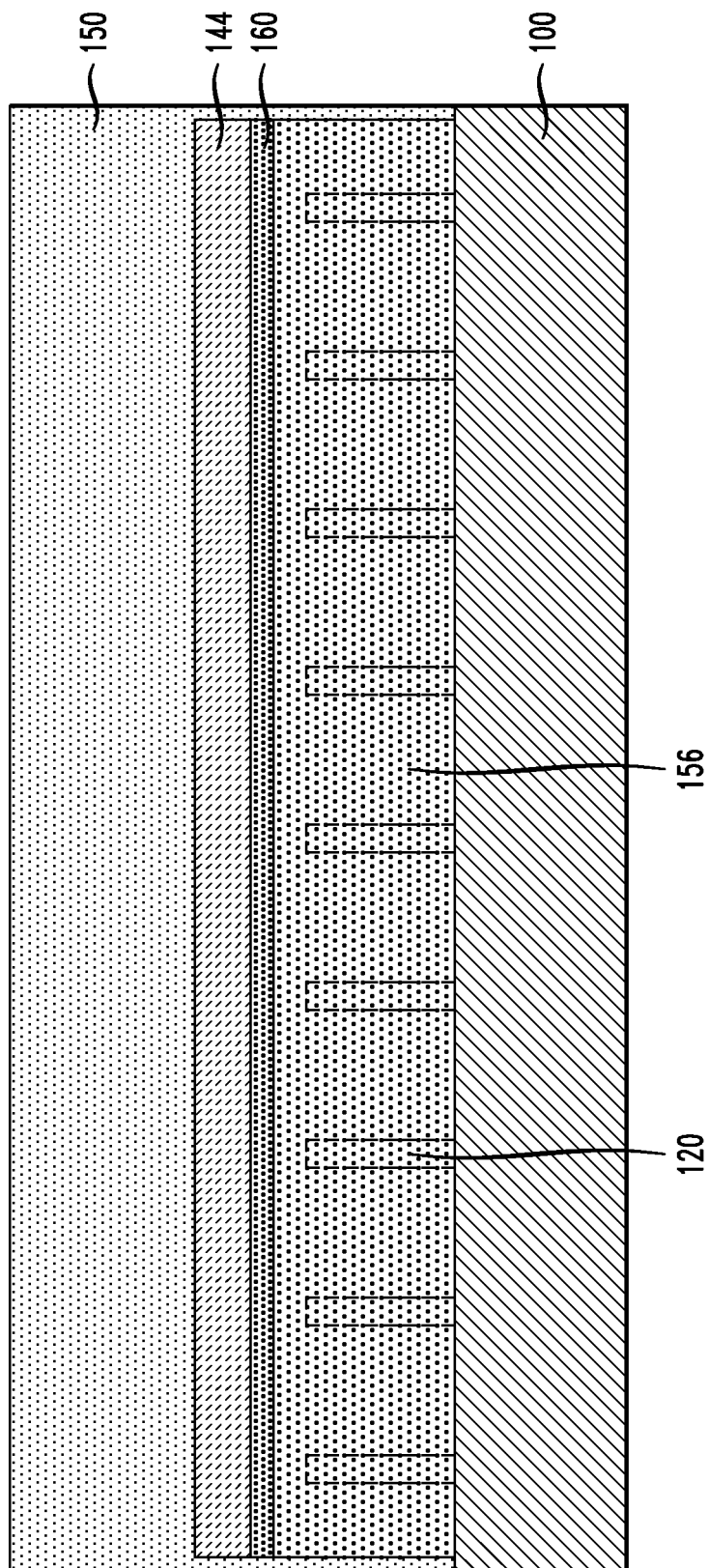


FIG. 10A

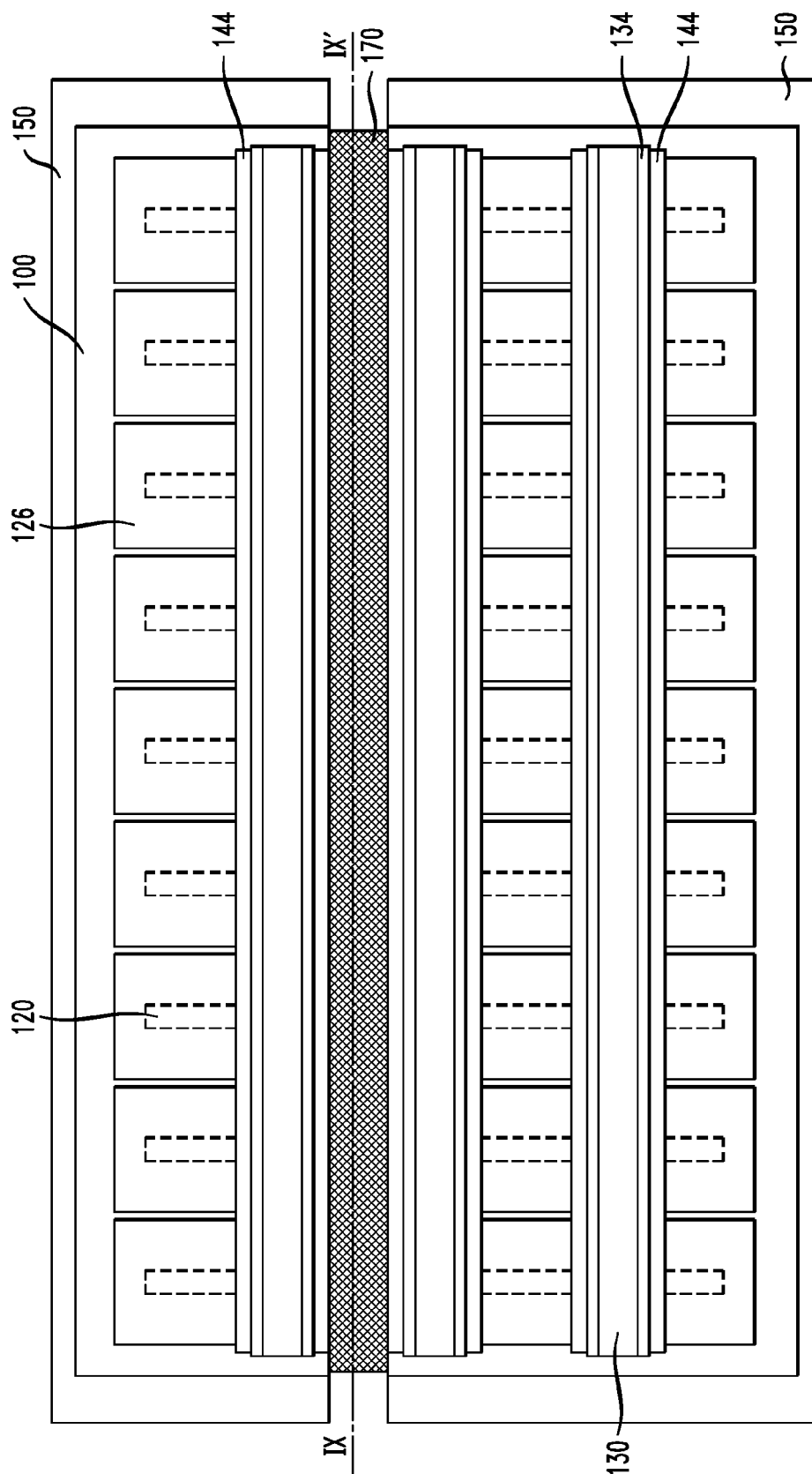


FIG. 10B

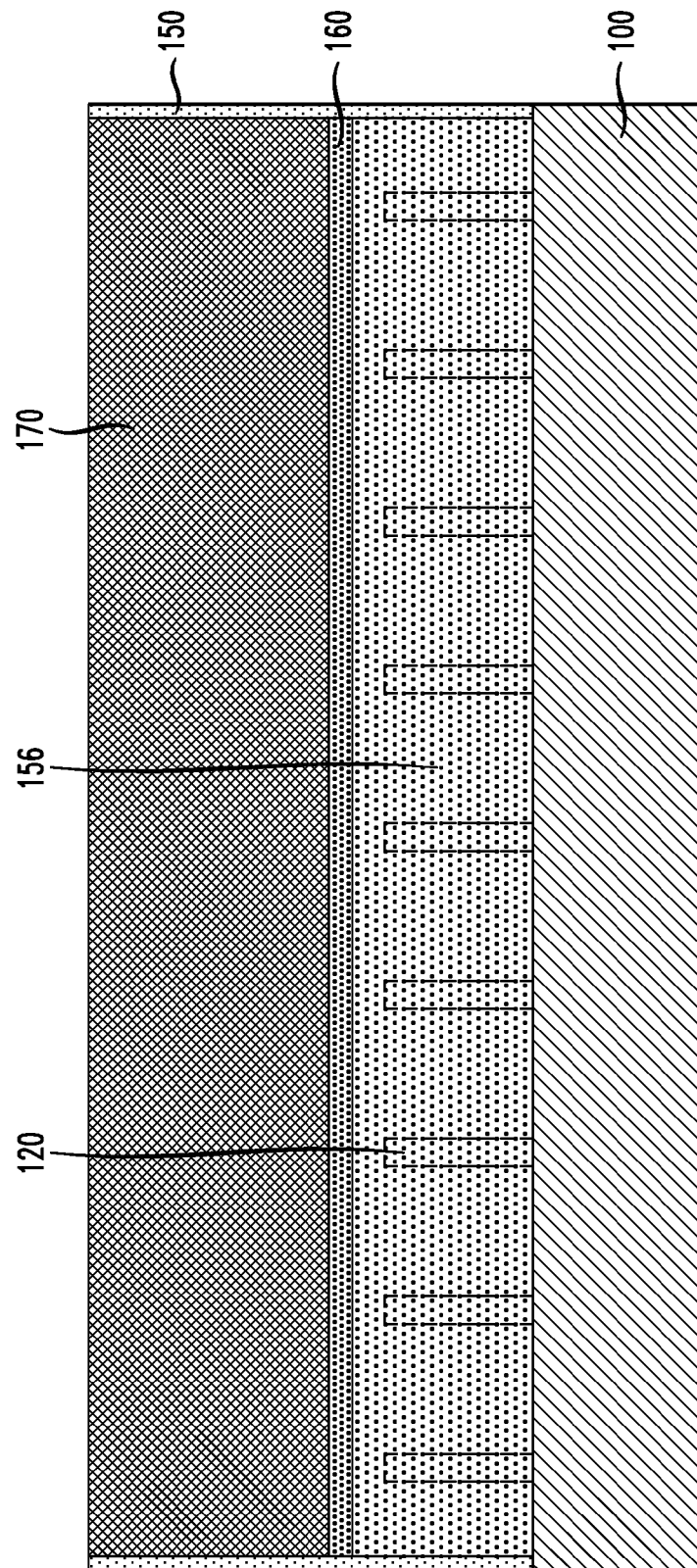


FIG. 11A

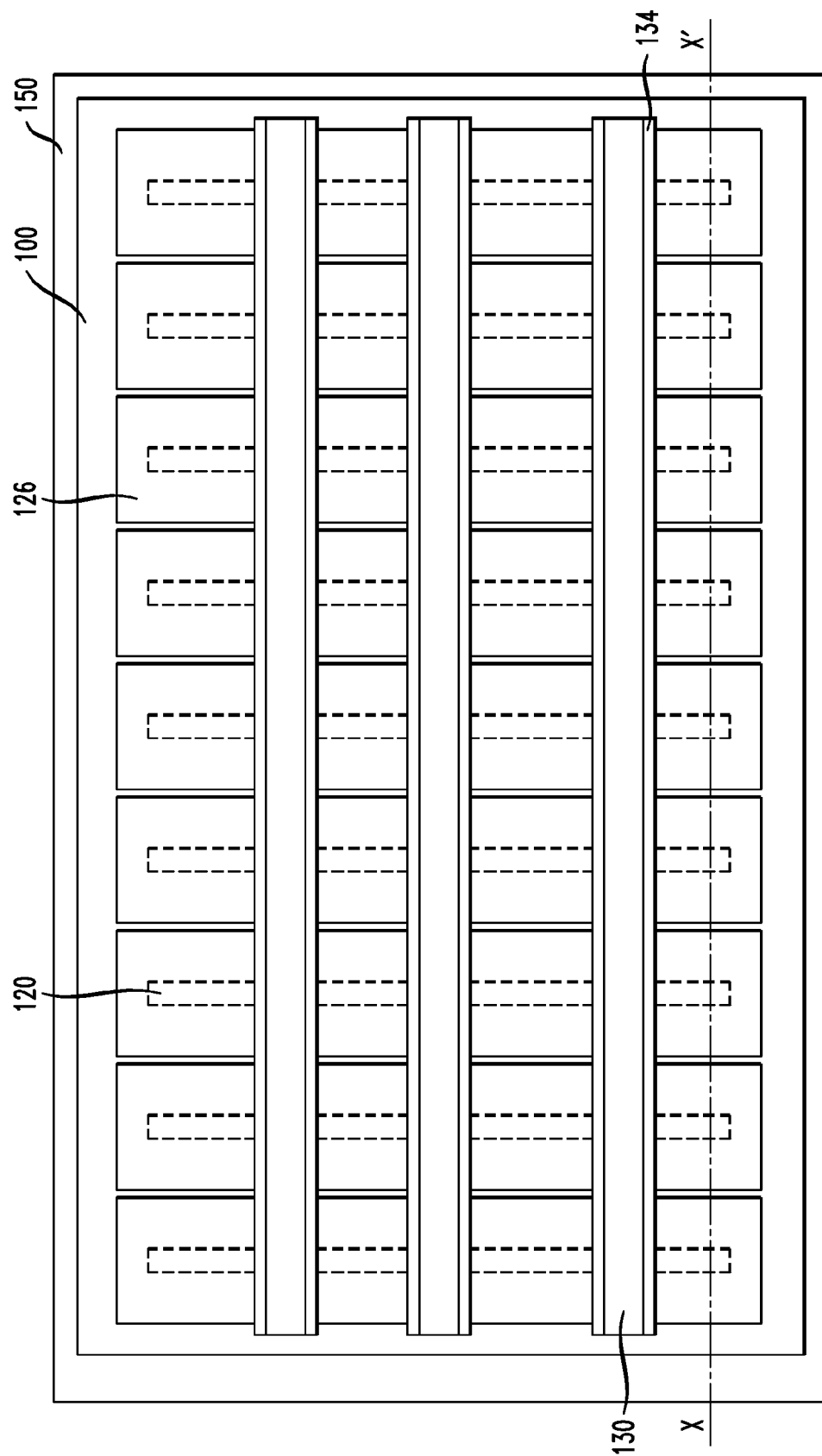


FIG. 11B

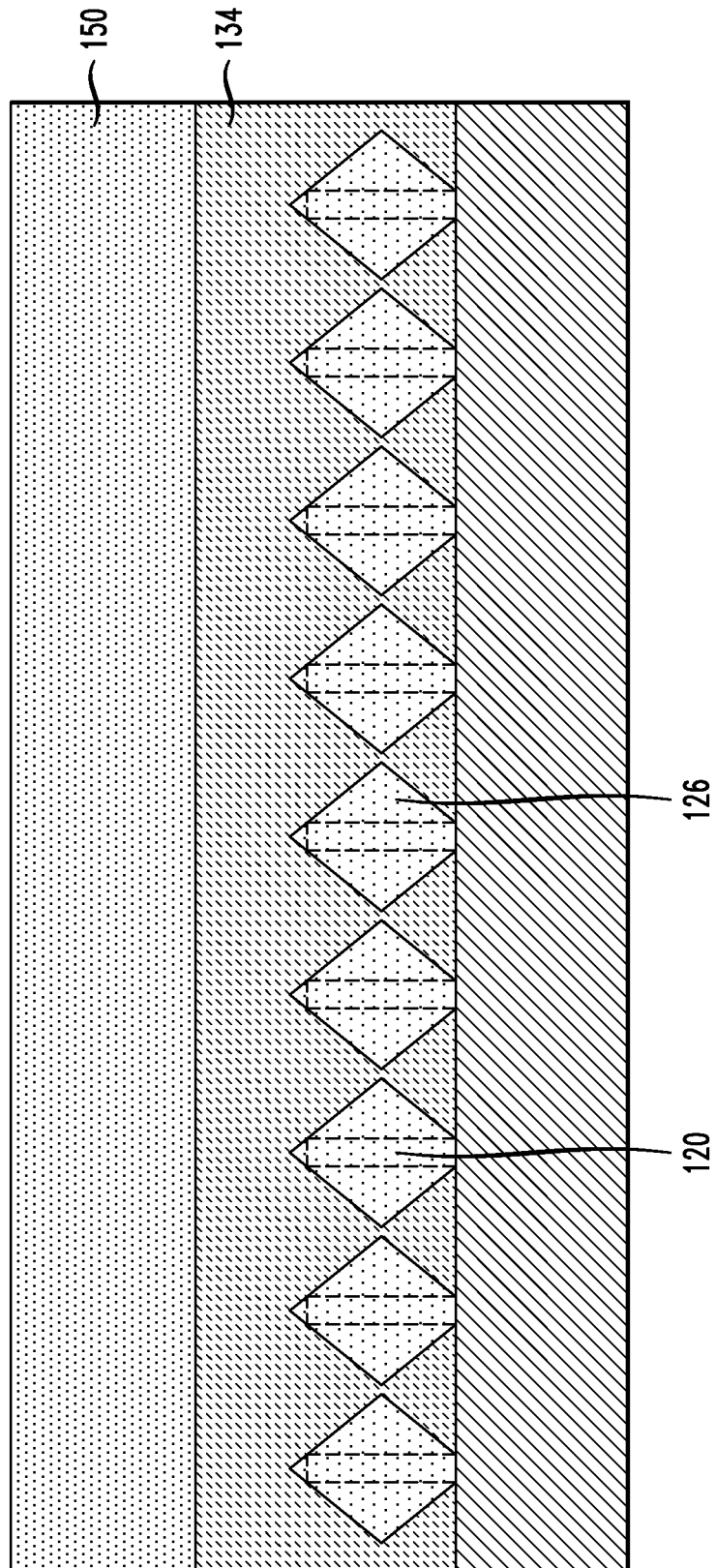


FIG. 12A

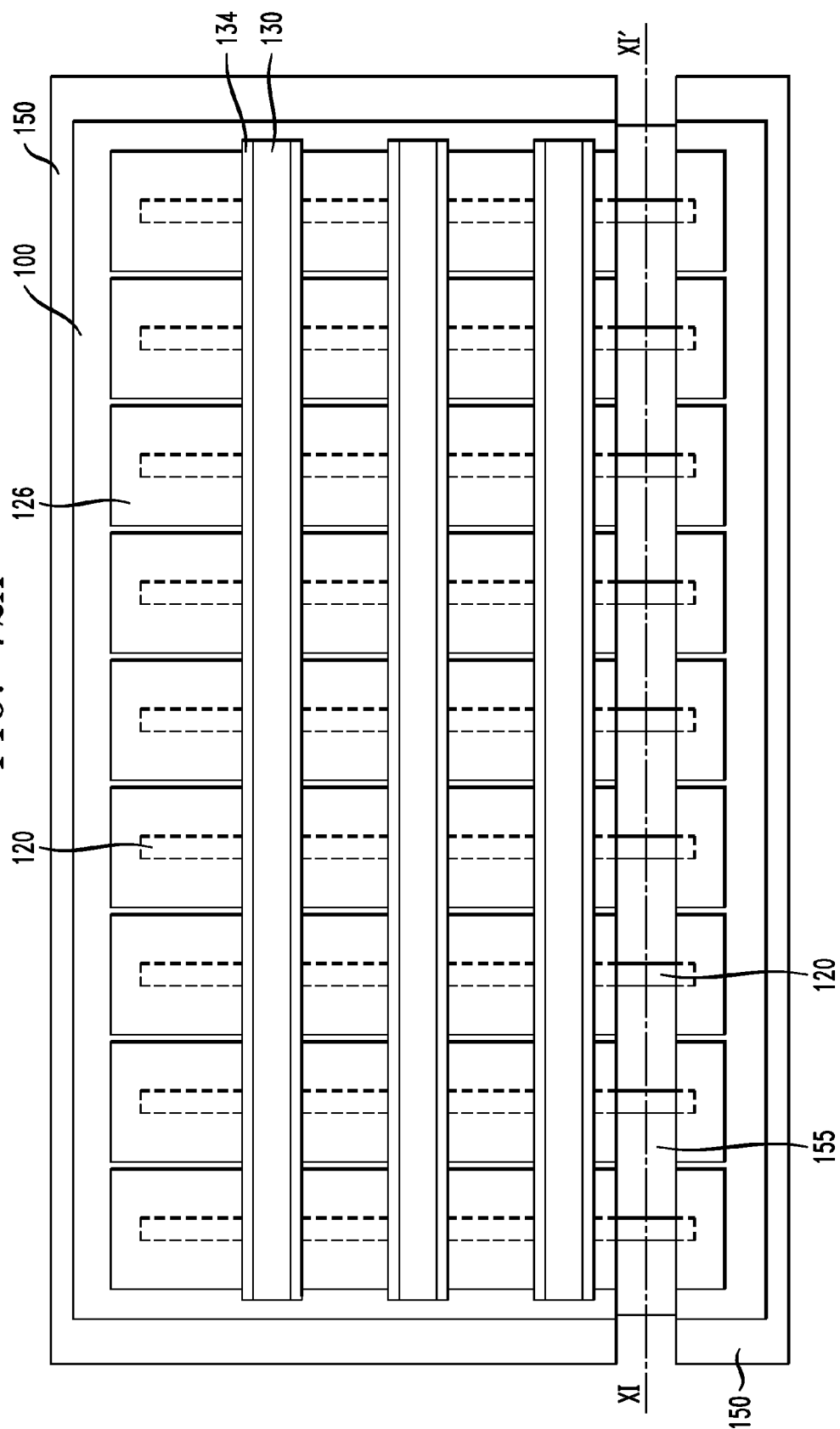


FIG. 12B

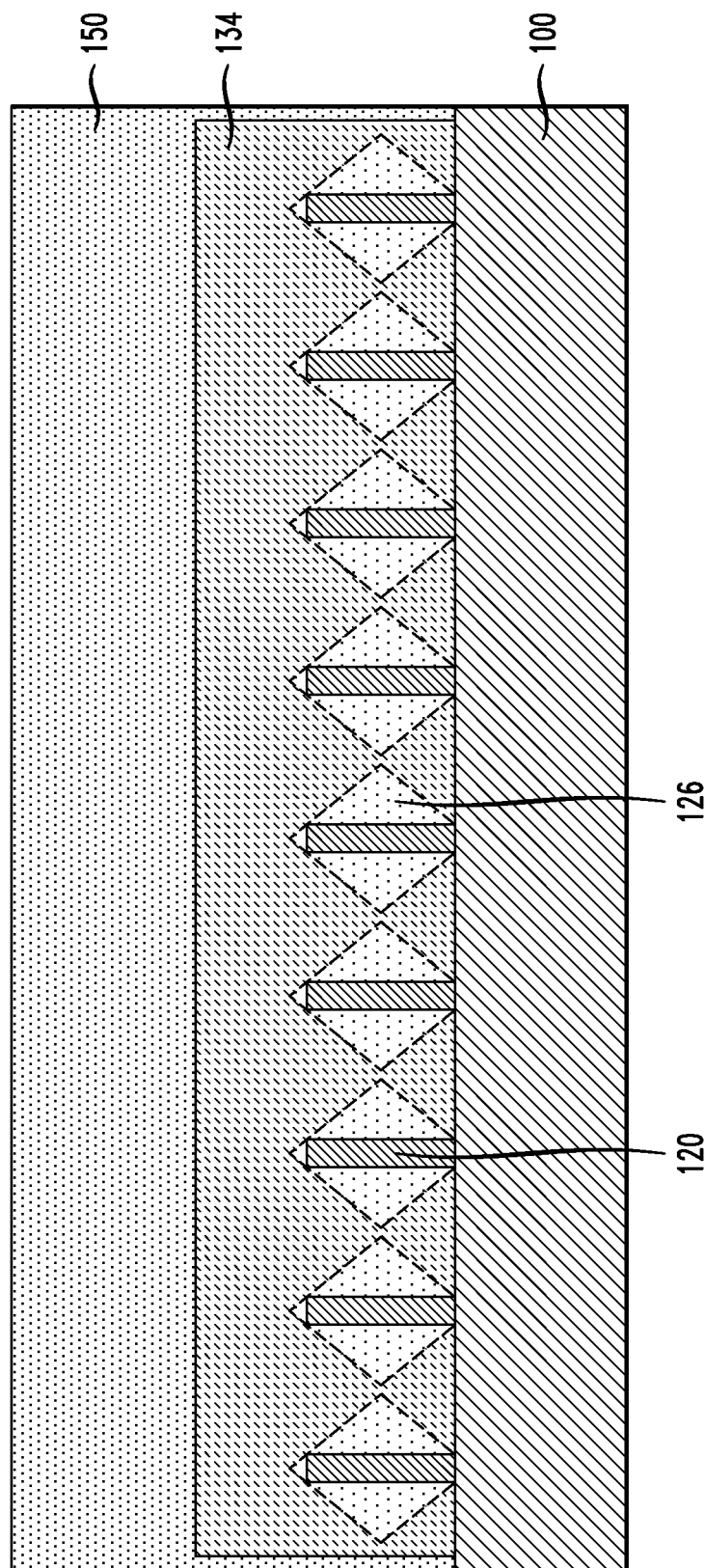


FIG. 13A

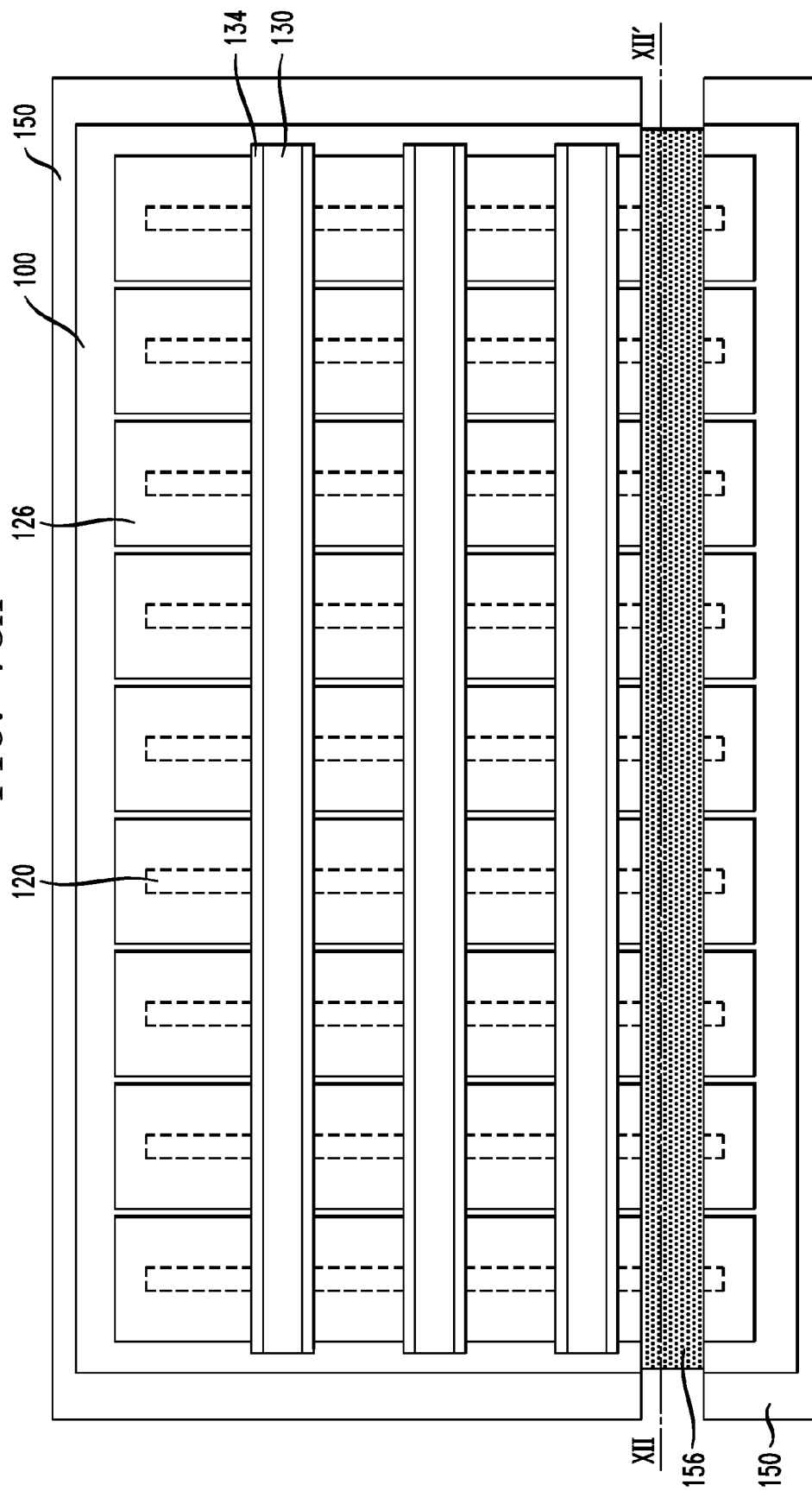
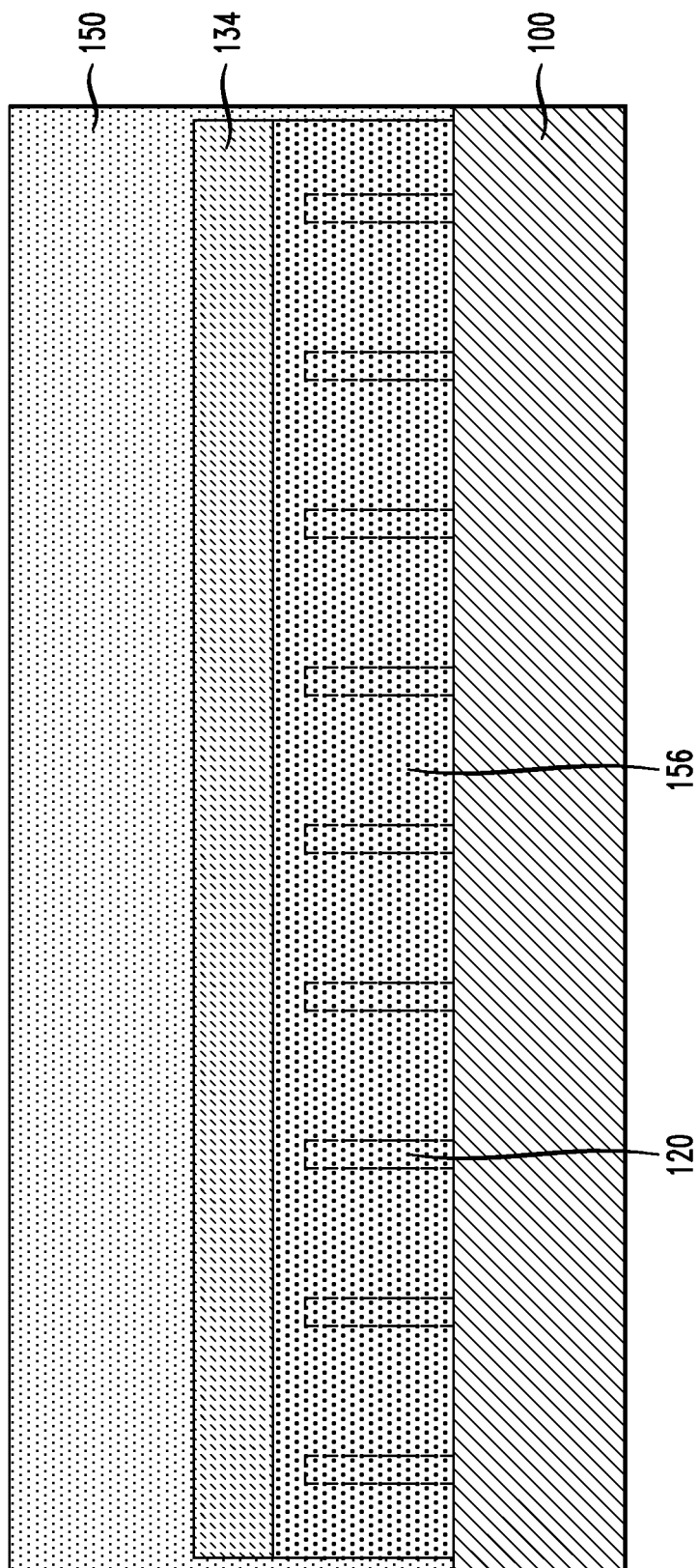


FIG. 13B



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**FINFET DEVICE HAVING A MERGE
SOURCE DRAIN REGION UNDER CONTACT
AREAS AND UNMERGED FINS BETWEEN
CONTACT AREAS, AND A METHOD OF
MANUFACTURING SAME**

**CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED
APPLICATION**

This application is a Divisional of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/022,945, filed on Sep. 10, 2013, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

TECHNICAL FIELD

The field generally relates to fin field-effect transistor (FinFET) devices and methods of manufacturing same and, in particular, to a FinFET device having a merged source drain region under contact areas and unmerged fins between contact areas, and a method of manufacturing same.

BACKGROUND

In known semiconductor devices, such as, for example, FinFET complementary metal-oxide-semiconductor (CMOS) devices, source drain (SD) regions are merged to reduce semiconductor resistance and decrease silicide contact resistance. However, the epitaxial merging and with it the needed overgrowth above the fins results in an increase of drain to gate capacitance because of an additional epitaxial region to gate capacitance component.

Accordingly, there is a need for a semiconductor device which can exhibit reduced semiconductor resistance and decreased silicide contact resistance without an increase in drain to gate capacitance.

SUMMARY

In general, exemplary embodiments of the invention include fin field-effect transistor (FinFET) devices and methods of manufacturing same and, in particular, to FinFET devices having a merged source drain region under contact areas and unmerged fins between contact areas, and a method of manufacturing same.

According to an exemplary embodiment of the present invention, a method for manufacturing a fin field-effect transistor (FinFET) device, comprises forming a plurality of fins on a substrate, forming a plurality of gate regions on portions of the fins, wherein the gate regions are spaced apart from each other, forming spacers on each respective gate region, epitaxially growing a first epitaxy region on each of the fins, stopping growth of the first epitaxy regions prior to merging of the first epitaxy regions between adjacent fins, forming a dielectric layer on the substrate including the fins and the first epitaxy regions, removing the dielectric layer and the first epitaxy regions from the fins at one or more portions between adjacent gate regions to form one or more contact area trenches, and epitaxially growing a second epitaxy region on each of the fins in the one or more contact area trenches, wherein the second epitaxy regions on adjacent fins merge with each other.

According to an exemplary embodiment of the present invention, a fin field-effect transistor (FinFET) device comprises a substrate, a plurality of fins on the substrate, a plurality of gate regions on portions of the fins, wherein the gate regions are spaced apart from each other, spacers on each respective gate region, one or more contact area trenches

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respectively formed at one or more portions between adjacent gate regions, an epitaxy region on each of the fins in the one or more contact area trenches, wherein the epitaxy regions on adjacent fins in the one or more contact area trenches are merged with each other to form merged epitaxy regions, and an unmerged epitaxy region on portions of each of the fins between the one or more contact area trenches.

These and other exemplary embodiments of the invention will be described or become apparent from the following detailed description of exemplary embodiments, which is to be read in connection with the accompanying drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Exemplary embodiments of the present invention will be described below in more detail, with reference to the accompanying drawings, of which:

FIGS. 1A and 1B are top and cross-sectional views, respectively, illustrating fin formation in a method of manufacturing a FinFET device, according to an exemplary embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 2 is a top view illustrating gate formation in a method of manufacturing a FinFET device, according to an exemplary embodiment of the invention.

FIGS. 3A and 3B are top and cross-sectional views, respectively, illustrating deposition and patterning of a spacer region in a method of manufacturing a FinFET device, according to an exemplary embodiment of the invention.

FIGS. 4A and 4B are top and cross-sectional views, respectively, illustrating epitaxial growth on the fins in the source drain region in a method of manufacturing a FinFET device, according to an exemplary embodiment of the invention.

FIGS. 5A and 5B are top and cross-sectional views, respectively, illustrating formation of second spacers after epitaxy in a method of manufacturing a FinFET device, according to an exemplary embodiment of the invention.

FIGS. 6A and 6B are top and cross-sectional views, respectively, illustrating formation of a middle-of-the-line (MOL) dielectric in a method of manufacturing a FinFET device, according to an exemplary embodiment of the invention.

FIGS. 7A and 7B are top and cross-sectional views, respectively, illustrating formation of a contact area trench in a method of manufacturing a FinFET device, according to an exemplary embodiment of the invention.

FIGS. 8A and 8B are top and cross-sectional views, respectively, illustrating formation of a merged epitaxy region in a contact area trench in a method of manufacturing a FinFET device, according to an exemplary embodiment of the invention.

FIGS. 9A and 9B are top and cross-sectional views, respectively, illustrating formation of a silicide layer on the merged epitaxy region in a method of manufacturing a FinFET device, according to an exemplary embodiment of the invention.

FIGS. 10A and 10B are top and cross-sectional views, respectively, illustrating formation a contact bar on a silicide layer in a method of manufacturing a FinFET device, according to an exemplary embodiment of the invention.

FIGS. 11A and 11B are top and cross-sectional views, respectively, illustrating formation of a middle-of-the-line (MOL) dielectric in a method of manufacturing a FinFET device, according to another exemplary embodiment of the invention.

FIGS. 12A and 12B are top and cross-sectional views, respectively, illustrating formation of a contact area trench in a method of manufacturing a FinFET device, according to another exemplary embodiment of the invention.

FIGS. 13A and 13B are top and cross-sectional views, respectively, illustrating formation of a merged epitaxy region in a contact area trench in a method of manufacturing a FinFET device, according to another exemplary embodiment of the invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF EXEMPLARY EMBODIMENTS

Exemplary embodiments of the invention will now be discussed in further detail with regard to fin field-effect transistor (FinFET) devices and methods of manufacturing same and, in particular, to a FinFET device having a merged source drain region under contact areas and unmerged fins between contact areas, and a method of manufacturing same. This invention may, however, be embodied in many different forms and should not be construed as limited to the embodiments set forth herein.

The embodiments of the present invention include a FinFET device and method of manufacturing same which maintains a merged source drain region under the contact area (CA) regions and keeps the fins unmerged between contact areas to optimize an access resistance and capacitance tradeoff. As a result, there is less parasitic source drain epitaxial region to gate capacitance (CG-EPI) with respect to an entire merged epitaxy region, and a lower Rext penalty compared to an unmerged fin design, due to a merged and in-situ doped epitaxy region contacting metal studs.

The embodiments of the present invention further result in little or no lateral outside growth to avoid unwanted shorts between neighboring transistors as well as a source to drain shorts caused by the merging of fins of different transistors, improved epitaxy region uniformity, and little or no loading effects during growth of an epitaxial region due to uniform contact area size.

It is to be understood that the various layers and/or regions shown in the accompanying drawings are not drawn to scale, and that one or more layers and/or regions of a type commonly used in FinFET devices may not be explicitly shown in a given drawing. This does not imply that the layers and/or regions not explicitly shown are omitted from the actual FinFET devices. Moreover, the same or similar reference numbers used throughout the drawings are used to denote the same or similar features, elements, or structures, and thus, a detailed explanation of the same or similar features, elements, or structures will not be repeated for each of the drawings.

The FinFET devices and methods for forming same in accordance with the embodiments of the present invention can be employed in applications, hardware, and/or electronic systems. Suitable hardware and systems for implementing embodiments of the invention may include, but are not limited to, personal computers, communication networks, electronic commerce systems, portable communications devices (e.g., cell and smart phones), solid-state media storage devices, functional circuitry, etc. Systems and hardware incorporating the FinFET devices are contemplated embodiments of the invention. Given the teachings of the embodiments of the invention provided herein, one of ordinary skill in the art will be able to contemplate other implementations and applications of embodiments of the invention.

A silicon-on-insulator (SOI) substrate or a bulk substrate can be used as the semiconductor substrate 100 of the FinFET device. The SOI substrate includes a handle substrate, a buried insulating layer, such as, for example, a buried oxide or nitride layer, located on an upper surface of the handle substrate, and a semiconductor layer located on an upper surface of the buried insulating layer. The handle substrate and the

semiconductor layer may comprise the same or different semiconductor material including, but not limited to, Si, SiGe, SiC, SiGeC or other like semiconductor. In addition, multiple layers of the semiconductor materials can be used as the semiconductor material of the handle substrate and the semiconductor layer. The bulk semiconductor substrate omits the buried insulating layer and has a semiconductor material including, but not limited to, Si, SiGe, SiC, SiGeC or other like semiconductor. Multiple layers of these semiconductor materials can also form the bulk semiconductor substrate. If the substrate is a bulk substrate, the plurality of fins may be formed on the bulk substrate using known processes (e.g. etch fins, oxide fill, recess oxide, etc.).

According to an embodiment of the present invention, a well implantation step can be performed to create doped NFET and PFET devices with different voltage thresholds (VT), and PFET devices may include a silicon germanium (SiGe) on insulator configuration.

Referring to FIGS. 1A and 1B, which are top and cross-sectional views, respectively, illustrating fin formation in a method of manufacturing a FinFET device, according to an exemplary embodiment of the present invention, fins 120 are formed on substrate 100 by patterning the SOI layer 107 or a top portion of the bulk substrate 110 depending on which type of substrate is used. Patterning is performed by, for example, image transfer and etching. Referring to FIG. 1A, the cross-section is taken along line I-I', perpendicular to the fins 120.

FIG. 2 is a top view illustrating gate formation, and FIGS. 3A and 3B are top and cross-sectional views, respectively, illustrating deposition and patterning of a spacer region in a method of manufacturing a FinFET device, according to an exemplary embodiment of the invention. A gate stack layer is deposited on the resulting structure from FIGS. 1A and 1B, and patterned to form gate stacks 130 around sides and on upper surfaces of designated portions of the fins 120 for the gate areas. In accordance with an embodiment, a gate hard-mask (not shown), for example, a nitride, or any dielectric or combination of dielectric layers, is formed on each gate stack 130. The pitch between gates may vary according to design constraints. It is to be understood that the embodiments of the present invention are not limited to gate first processing, and may also be applied in conjunction with gate last processes as well.

Referring to FIGS. 3A and 3B, a spacer layer is deposited on the gate stacks 130 and patterned by, for example, reactive ion etching (RIE) to form spacer patterns 134 along sides of the gate stacks 130. The spacer patterns 134 isolate the gate stacks 130 from the source drain regions on either side of the gate stacks 130. The spacer patterns 134 can include a dielectric insulating material such as, for example, silicon oxide, silicon nitride, silicon oxynitride, boron nitride, and/or silicon boron nitride. The cross-section in FIG. 3B is taken along line II-II' perpendicular to the fins 120 and cutting through the fins 120.

FIGS. 4A and 4B are top and cross-sectional views, respectively, illustrating epitaxial growth on the fins 120 in the source drain region in a method of manufacturing a FinFET device, according to an exemplary embodiment of the invention. FIG. 4B is a cross-section taken along line III-III' in FIG. 4A.

Silicon germanium and/or silicon is epitaxially grown on exposed surfaces, for example silicon surfaces, of the fins 120. As can be seen in FIGS. 4A and 4B, growth is stopped prior to merging of the epitaxial region 126 from each fin 120 so that the fins 120 do not contact each other through the epitaxial region 126. Referring to FIGS. 4A and 4B, spaces/separations are present between the epitaxial region 126 of a

fin **120** and the epitaxial regions **126** of adjacent fins **120**. According to an embodiment the growth process is timed and stopped after a predetermined period to avoid merging.

According to an embodiment, growth is performed with epitaxial in-situ impurity doped silicon. The epitaxy region **126** can be in-situ doped with, for example, boron for pFET or Arsenic/Phosphorus for nFET, or other appropriate impurity. According to another embodiment, growth is performed with in-situ boron doped SiGe. In accordance with an embodiment of the present invention, in-situ doping can be performed with a doping level of about 1×10^{20} to about $1.5 \times 10^{21} \text{ cm}^{-3}$, for example, about 4×10^{20} to about $8 \times 10^{20} \text{ cm}^{-3}$.

FIGS. **5A** and **5B** are top and cross-sectional views, respectively, illustrating formation of second spacers after epitaxy in a method of manufacturing a FinFET device, according to an exemplary embodiment of the invention. FIG. **5B** is a cross-section taken along line IV-IV' in FIG. **5A**.

A second spacer layer is deposited on the gate stacks **130** including the first spacers **134** and patterned by, for example, reactive ion etching (RIE) to form second spacer patterns **144** along sides of the first spacer patterns **134** on the gate stacks **130**. Like the spacer patterns **134**, the spacer patterns **144** isolate the gate stacks **130** from the source drain regions on either side of the gate stacks **130**. The spacer patterns **144** can include a dielectric insulating material such as, for example, silicon oxide, silicon nitride, silicon oxynitride, boron nitride, and/or silicon boron nitride. In accordance with an embodiment, the second spacer patterns **144** are formed after epitaxial growth,

As described in further detail below with respect to FIGS. **7A** and **7B**, the second spacer pattern **144** is used to align the contact area (CA) trenches, which are formed later. As a result, unmerged epitaxy regions (e.g., epitaxy regions **126** shaped as diamonds) are formed closer to the gates, and merged epitaxy regions are formed in a center area between the gates. The second spacer pattern **144** facilitates alignment of the CA trenches to protect/preserve the unmerged epitaxy regions.

FIGS. **6A** and **6B** are top and cross-sectional views, respectively, illustrating formation of a middle-of-the-line (MOL) dielectric in a method of manufacturing a FinFET device, according to an exemplary embodiment of the invention. FIG. **6B** is a cross-section taken along line V-V' in FIG. **6A**. The MOL dielectric layer **150** is deposited using for example, CVD and can include, for example, silicon oxide, followed by CMP. In the top view in FIG. **6A**, and in subsequent top views depicting the MOL dielectric **150**, the MOL dielectric is shown as extending beyond the edges of the substrate **100** to distinguish the MOL dielectric **150** from the substrate **100** in the top view. It is to be understood that while the MOL dielectric can have the configuration depicted in the top views, the MOL dielectric can also be in line with or short of the edges of the substrate without extending beyond the edges as depicted in the top views. It is further noted, that depending on configurations of the device, the dielectric **150** is not necessarily limited to a middle-of-the-line dielectric, and can be a dielectric for another level such as, for example, a back-end-of-the-line.

FIGS. **7A** and **7B** are top and cross-sectional views, respectively, illustrating formation of a contact area trench in a method of manufacturing a FinFET device, according to an exemplary embodiment of the invention. FIG. **7B** is a cross-section taken along line VI-VI' in FIG. **7A**.

In accordance with an embodiment of the present invention, referring to FIG. **7A**, the MOL dielectric **150** is removed from a predetermined portion of the source drain region between the gates **130** to form the contact area (CA) trench

155. As can be seen, the second spacer **144** enables the CA trench **155** to be self-aligned. It is to be understood that a plurality of contact area trenches may be formed between different pairs of gates **130**.

In accordance with an embodiment, the MOL dielectric **150** is removed using lithography, including, for example masking and RIE. Then, the epitaxy region **126** is removed from the trench area around the fins **120** using, for example, etching, including, but not limited to, directional RIE, etching SiGe or other doped material faster than the silicon fin. The epitaxy region, which according to an embodiment includes a material other than silicon, is selectively etched with respect to the fins **120**, which include silicon. As a result, the fins **120** remain in the CA trench **155**.

FIGS. **8A** and **8B** are top and cross-sectional views, respectively, illustrating formation of a merged epitaxy region in a contact area trench **155** in a method of manufacturing a FinFET device, according to an exemplary embodiment of the invention. FIG. **8B** is a cross-section taken along line VII-VII' in FIG. **8A**. It is to be understood that FIGS. **7A** and **8A** show one trench **155** and one merged epitaxy region **156** as an example, and that multiple trenches **155** and merged epitaxy regions **156** can be formed between different pairs of gates on the device.

The merged epitaxy region **156** is formed in a similar matter to the unmerged epitaxy region **126** described in connection with FIGS. **4A** and **4B**. For example, according to an embodiment, silicon germanium and/or silicon is epitaxially grown on exposed surfaces, for example silicon surfaces, of the fins **120** in the CA trench **155**. As can be seen in FIGS. **8A** and **8B**, the exposed fins **120** of the CA trench **155** are merged by epitaxially growing silicon germanium and/or silicon on the exposed silicon surfaces of the fins **120** so that the fins **120** contact each other through the merged region **156** in an integrated structure.

In accordance with embodiments of the present invention, the epitaxy regions **126** and **156** can include the same or different materials (e.g., dopants and/or base materials), have the same or different doping (e.g., P vs. N) and/or have the same or different doping concentrations from each other (e.g., different doping levels). As noted above, the embodiments of the present invention include a FinFET device and method of manufacturing same which maintains a merged source drain region under the contact area (CA) regions and keeps the fins unmerged between contact areas to optimize an access resistance and capacitance tradeoff.

According to an embodiment, growth is performed with epitaxial in-situ impurity doped silicon. The epitaxy region **156** can be in-situ doped with, for example, boron for pFET or Arsenic/Phosphorus for nFET, or other appropriate impurity. According to another embodiment, growth is performed with in-situ boron doped SiGe. In accordance with an embodiment of the present invention, in-situ doping can be performed with a doping level of about 1×10^{20} to about $1.5 \times 10^{21} \text{ cm}^{-3}$, for example, about 4×10^{20} to about $8 \times 10^{20} \text{ cm}^{-3}$.

FIGS. **9A** and **9B** are top and cross-sectional views, respectively, illustrating formation of a silicide layer **160** on the merged epitaxy region **156**, and FIGS. **10A** and **10B** are top and cross-sectional views, respectively, illustrating formation of a contact bar **170** on the silicide layer **160**. FIG. **9B** is a cross-section taken along line VIII-VIII' in FIG. **9A** and FIG. **10B** is a cross-section taken along line IX-IX' in FIG. **10A**.

After formation of the merged epitaxy region **156** in the contact area trench **155**, a silicide layer **160** is formed the merged epitaxy region (or on each of the merged epitaxy regions **156**), using, for example, a low temperature annealing process. Then, a CA contact bar **170** is formed on the merged

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epitaxy region **156** including the silicide layer **160** (or on each of the merged epitaxy regions **156** including the silicide layer **160**). The CA contact bar **170** is formed of a metal, including but not limited to, tungsten, or copper, and is deposited using, for example, chemical vapor deposition (CVD), plasma enhanced chemical vapor deposition (PECVD), physical vapor deposition (PVD), sputtering, atomic layer deposition (ALD) or other like deposition processes.

According to an embodiment, a contact bar **170** formed in trench **155** can be formed by depositing a metal silicide-forming metal in trench **155** to result in the silicide layer **160** illustrated in FIGS. **9A** and **9B**, and subsequently depositing a metal to form the contact bar **170** as shown in FIGS. **10A** and **10B**. The metal silicide-forming metal, which can be for example, Ni, Pt, Co, and alloys such as NiPt, has an interface with the merged epitaxy **156**. An optional diffusion barrier layer such as, for example, TiN or TaN, can be deposited atop the metal silicide-forming metal. When Ni is used, an anneal can be conducted at temperatures in the range of 400° C. to 600° C. Any unreacted portion of the metal silicide-forming metal including the diffusion barrier layer can be removed after forming the silicide **160**. Then, a metal, such as, for example, tungsten, is added to form the contact bar **170** as shown in FIGS. **10A** and **10B**.

Thereafter, in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention, a replacement metal gate (RMG) process can be completed.

In accordance with an embodiment, formation of the second spacer **144** can be omitted. FIGS. **11A**, **11B**, **12A**, **12B**, **13A** and **13B** show similar steps to FIGS. **6A**, **6B**, **7A**, **7B**, **8A** and **8B**, respectively, wherein the formation of the second spacer patterns **144** was omitted.

Although illustrative embodiments of the present invention have been described herein with reference to the accompanying drawings, it is to be understood that the invention is not limited to those precise embodiments, and that various other changes and modifications may be made by one skilled in the art without departing from the scope or spirit of the invention.

We claim:

1. A fin field-effect transistor (FinFET) device, comprising:
 - a substrate;
 - a plurality of fins on the substrate;
 - a plurality of gate regions on portions of the fins, wherein the gate regions are spaced apart from each other; spacers on each respective gate region;
 - one or more contact area trenches respectively formed at one or more portions between adjacent gate regions;
 - an epitaxy region on each of the fins in the one or more contact area trenches, wherein the epitaxy regions on adjacent fins in the one or more contact area trenches are merged with each other to form merged epitaxy regions; and
 - an unmerged epitaxy region on portions of each of the fins between the one or more contact area trenches; wherein the unmerged epitaxy regions are doped differently than the merged epitaxy regions.
2. The FinFET device according to claim 1, wherein the unmerged epitaxy regions are located under the gate regions and the spacers.
3. The FinFET device according to claim 1, wherein a contact area trench is formed between two adjacent spacers of two adjacent gate regions.
4. The FinFET device according to claim 1, further comprising a silicide layer on each of the merged epitaxy regions in the one or more contact area trenches.

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5. The FinFET device according to claim 4, further comprising a contact bar on the silicide layer in the one or more contact area trenches.

6. A fin field-effect transistor (FinFET) device, comprising:

- a substrate;
- a plurality of fins on the substrate;
- a plurality of gate regions on portions of the fins, wherein the gate regions are spaced apart from each other; spacers on each respective gate region;
- one or more contact area trenches respectively formed at one or more portions between adjacent gate regions;
- an epitaxy region on each of the fins in the one or more contact area trenches, wherein the epitaxy regions on adjacent fins in the one or more contact area trenches are merged with each other to form merged epitaxy regions; an unmerged epitaxy region on portions of each of the fins between the one or more contact area trenches; and
- second spacers on the spacers formed on each respective gate region.

7. The FinFET device according to claim 6, wherein a contact area trench is formed between two adjacent second spacers of two adjacent gate regions.

8. A fin field-effect transistor (FinFET) device, comprising:

- a substrate;
- a plurality of fins on the substrate;
- a plurality of gate regions on portions of the fins, wherein the gate regions are spaced apart from each other; spacers on each respective gate region;
- one or more contact area trenches respectively formed at one or more portions between adjacent gate regions;
- an epitaxy region on each of the fins in the one or more contact area trenches, wherein the epitaxy regions on adjacent fins in the one or more contact area trenches are merged with each other to form merged epitaxy regions; and
- an unmerged epitaxy region on portions of each of the fins between the one or more contact area trenches; wherein the unmerged epitaxy regions comprise a different material from the merged epitaxy regions.

9. A fin field-effect transistor (FinFET) device, comprising:

- a substrate;
- a plurality of fins on the substrate;
- a plurality of gate regions on portions of the fins, wherein the gate regions are spaced apart from each other; spacers on each respective gate region;
- one or more contact area trenches respectively formed at one or more portions between adjacent gate regions;
- an epitaxy region on each of the fins in the one or more contact area trenches, wherein the epitaxy regions on adjacent fins in the one or more contact area trenches are merged with each other to form merged epitaxy regions; and
- an unmerged epitaxy region on portions of each of the fins between the one or more contact area trenches; wherein doping levels of the merged and unmerged epitaxy regions are different from each other.

10. A fin field-effect transistor (FinFET) device, comprising:

- a substrate;
- a plurality of fins on the substrate;
- a plurality of gate regions on portions of the fins, wherein the gate regions are spaced apart from each other; spacers on each respective gate region;
- one or more contact area trenches respectively formed at one or more portions between adjacent gate regions;
- an epitaxy region on each of the fins in the one or more contact area trenches, wherein the epitaxy regions on

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adjacent fins in the one or more contact area trenches are merged with each other to form merged epitaxy regions; an unmerged epitaxy region on portions of each of the fins between the one or more contact area trenches; and a contact bar on each of the merged epitaxy regions in the one or more contact area trenches.

11. A fin field-effect transistor (FinFET) device, comprising:

a substrate;
a plurality of fins on the substrate;
a plurality of gate regions on portions of the fins, wherein the gate regions are spaced apart from each other;
spacers on each respective gate region;
one or more contact area trenches respectively formed at one or more portions between adjacent gate regions;
an epitaxy region on each of the fins in the one or more contact area trenches, wherein the epitaxy regions on adjacent fins in the one or more contact area trenches are merged with each other to form merged epitaxy regions;
an unmerged epitaxy region on portions of each of the fins between the one or more contact area trenches; and
a dielectric layer on the fins between the one or more contact area trenches and not on the fins in the one or more contact area trenches.

12. A fin field-effect transistor (FinFET) device, comprising:

a substrate;
a plurality of fins on the substrate;
a plurality of gate regions on portions of the fins, wherein the gate regions are spaced apart from each other;
one or more contact area trenches respectively formed at one or more portions between adjacent gate regions;
an epitaxy region on each of the fins in the one or more contact area trenches, wherein the epitaxy regions on adjacent fins in the one or more contact area trenches are merged with each other to form merged epitaxy regions; and
an unmerged epitaxy region on portions of each of the fins between the one or more contact area trenches;
wherein the unmerged epitaxy regions are doped differently than the merged epitaxy regions.

13. The FinFET device according to claim 12, wherein the unmerged epitaxy regions are located under the gate regions.

14. The FinFET device according to claim 12, wherein a contact area trench is formed between two adjacent gate regions.

15. A fin field-effect transistor (FinFET) device, comprising:

a substrate;
a plurality of fins on the substrate;
a plurality of gate regions on portions of the fins, wherein the gate regions are spaced apart from each other;
one or more contact area trenches respectively formed at one or more portions between adjacent gate regions;
an epitaxy region on each of the fins in the one or more contact area trenches, wherein the epitaxy regions on

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adjacent fins in the one or more contact area trenches are merged with each other to form merged epitaxy regions; and
an unmerged epitaxy region on portions of each of the fins between the one or more contact area trenches;
wherein the unmerged epitaxy regions comprise a different material from the merged epitaxy regions.

16. A fin field-effect transistor (FinFET) device, comprising:

a substrate;
a plurality of fins on the substrate;
a plurality of gate regions on portions of the fins, wherein the gate regions are spaced apart from each other;
one or more contact area trenches respectively formed at one or more portions between adjacent gate regions;
an epitaxy region on each of the fins in the one or more contact area trenches, wherein the epitaxy regions on adjacent fins in the one or more contact area trenches are merged with each other to form merged epitaxy regions; and
an unmerged epitaxy region on portions of each of the fins between the one or more contact area trenches;
wherein doping levels of the merged and unmerged epitaxy regions are different from each other.

17. A fin field-effect transistor (FinFET) device, comprising:

a substrate;
a plurality of fins on the substrate;
a plurality of gate regions on portions of the fins, wherein the gate regions are spaced apart from each other;
one or more contact area trenches respectively formed at one or more portions between adjacent gate regions;
an epitaxy region on each of the fins in the one or more contact area trenches, wherein the epitaxy regions on adjacent fins in the one or more contact area trenches are merged with each other to form merged epitaxy regions;
an unmerged epitaxy region on portions of each of the fins between the one or more contact area trenches; and
a contact bar on each of the merged epitaxy regions in the one or more contact area trenches.

18. A fin field-effect transistor (FinFET) device, comprising:

a substrate;
a plurality of fins on the substrate;
a plurality of gate regions on portions of the fins, wherein the gate regions are spaced apart from each other;
one or more contact area trenches respectively formed at one or more portions between adjacent gate regions;
an epitaxy region on each of the fins in the one or more contact area trenches, wherein the epitaxy regions on adjacent fins in the one or more contact area trenches are merged with each other to form merged epitaxy regions;
an unmerged epitaxy region on portions of each of the fins between the one or more contact area trenches; and
a dielectric layer on the fins between the one or more contact area trenches and not on the fins in the one or more contact area trenches.

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